



The Leader.

"The one Idea which History exhibits as evermore developing itself into greater distinctness is the Idea of Humanity—the noble endeavour to throw down all the barriers erected between men by prejudice and one-sided views; and by setting aside the distinctions of Religion, Country, and Colour, to treat the whole Human race as one brotherhood, having one great object—the free development of our spiritual nature."—Humboldt's Cosmos.

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VOL. VI. No. 268.] SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1855. [PRICE SIXPENCE.

News of the Week.

THE proceedings of the Vienna Conference down to the 26th of April are now before the world in the Protocols adopted by the Plenipotentiaries. The papers possess an interest far beyond that of ordinary diplomatic correspondence, partly from the character of the Assembly, from its being, properly speaking, a series of consultative interviews between the agents of contending policies, and partly from the remarkable ability of the Baron DE MEYSENBERG, the Secretary, or his deputy, in drawing up the Protocols, which constitute a report of the proceedings almost as extensive as the reports of the debates in the French Chambers during LOUIS PHILIPPE's time in the *Journal des Debats*. The Conference met on the 15th of March, though all its members were not then present. It was subsequently joined by M. DROUYN DE LHUYS and AALI PACHA—both of them valuable accessions. In the meanwhile, indeed, the Baron DE BOURQUENY had represented France, we presume, with fidelity to his instructions, and certainly with considerable spirit, although not always with the most exact discretion. Lord JOHN RUSSELL proved to be a steadier and keener representative of this country than we had expected. The arrival of M. DROUYN DE LHUYS, although his diplomatic abilities unquestionably surpass that of any man at the Conference, did not make so valuable an accession to the representation of the Western Powers as we had supposed. On the other hand, AALIF EFFENDI, the resident representative of Turkey at Vienna, although a very intelligent and watchful man, with a full allowance of firmness, evidently wants that confidence in himself which was required to give Turkey her due weight in the Conference. This was supplied by AALI PACHA, who, although he lacked real "Plenipotentiary" authority, enabling him to decide and accept as well as to listen and represent, did take upon himself the initiative so far as to suggest forms and propositions. In the latter part, therefore, the several Governments may be said to have been fully represented, and it was not until the latter part that the tug of war came. As we knew before, the contest began on the third point: it came under discussion towards the latter end of March, when the Russian Plenipotentiaries, invited to take the initiative in making propositions, professed that they were obliged to refer

home for instructions. This reference consumed eighteen days; in the meantime, the new French and Turkish Plenipotentiaries had arrived. The contest really began on the 17th of April, when Prince GORTSCHAKOFF announced that he was not instructed to make any proposition at all; and in reply to M. DROUYN DE LHUYS, he added that Russia would not submit to any restriction of the number of her ships in the Black Sea in any form whatever. Here the Conference might have ended for any good that was obtained from it in the subsequent stages. Nevertheless, the fight that was afterwards carried on ought to be made useful to the Western Powers, by disclosing the position of Russia and of Austria, not without some light as to the position of Prussia. In the earlier stages, when it was proposed to place the Principalities under the guarantee of the Five Powers collectively, Russia made this proposal a pretext for again requiring the presence of Prussia at the Conference. Prussia, therefore, is still recognised as the available ally of Russia. Russia, who virtually invited the Conference, and professed to accept the Four Points, turned the proceedings into a farce, by declining every proposal that could have given effect to the Third Point; and by making counter-propositions on that point of a character insulting for their absurdity. The last of these propositions, the one that is said to have reopened the chance of peace, made at the last reported Conference, after Lord JOHN RUSSELL came away, was to the effect that the principle of closing the Dardanelles under treaty July 13, 1841, should remain in force, the SULTAN reserving to himself the power exceptionally to open the Straits for the fleets of foreign powers whom he might summon to defend him! It is evident that Russia entered into the Conference only for the purpose of gaining time. She did not conceal her arrogant contempt for the Allied Powers inveigled into that solemn trifling; and the very last remark of Prince GORTSCHAKOFF, that Russia had redeemed her pledges, and fulfilled the objects of the Conference by making propositions to carry out the four bases, was as grossly insulting as if the Russian Plenipotentiaries had made that gesture called "taking a sight," which is popularly supposed to be derived from the sailor's use of the quadrant, but which is as old as the ancient Egyptians. The public of this country must, therefore, be fully aware that, under any form whatsoever, Russia did not mean to conclude a

peace, unless the peace gave her all that she had been seeking,—short of present occupation of the Principalities. Her object was clearly confessed in the proposal that she should be left to deal alone and directly with Turkey, which would, in fact, have nullified all that has been done by the Western Powers, as well as by Austria, since 1852. The position of Austria is not less intelligible. Count BUOL assured the Conference at the commencement that the Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH intended to abide by his engagements, whatever "serious consequences" might befall. Considerably later, when asked by Prince GORTSCHAKOFF if Austria would approve of coercion to reduce the Russian fleet, the Count replied that Austria at present only pressed Russia to adopt the proposals made to her, but that the Emperor FRANCIS JOSEPH would reserve his right to support the proposal in any way. The Count, however, did not conceal the earnest desire for peace; from the first meeting to the last, he spoke in a very impressive manner, and with an appearance of sincerity he invoked the Divine favour for the Conference. The territorial position of Austria was of course never once alluded to; the difficulties that she might have in fulfilling the military responsibilities of the alliance never came in question. Baron PROKESCH spoke with more spirit, and did not attempt to modify his own disapproval of the Russian tergiversation and trifling. The idea that Austria is playing a double game between the Allies and Russia is not confirmed by what passed in the Conference, but the Minister could not conceal that the difficulties of that empire are greater than the Executive Government knows well how to meet; and Count BUOL clings to the hope of peace with all the desperation of a drowning man. M. DROUYN DE LHUYS evidently assented to the opinion of Count BUOL, and was willing to make rather important concessions; and we may infer, without much chance of being mistaken, that his disposition in that sense originated with his regard for the difficulties of Austria. Perhaps M. DROUYN DE LHUYS may have been impressed with the importance of sustaining the Austrian Empire, and therefore may have believed the Austrian Government to be friendly to the Western Powers, and its occupation of so much European ground to be an advantage. He returned to Paris to seek from the Emperor NAPOLEON a confirmation of verbal assurances which he seems to have given to the Cabinet

of Vienna. The endorsement was refused. M. DROUYN DE LUCYS resigns, and disappears into retreat, almost in disgrace.

This change is followed by others that have almost the emphasis of a new policy. Count WALEWSKI—one of the strong links between France and England—becomes the French Minister for Foreign Affairs; and Count DE PERSIGNY, one of LOUIS NAPOLEON's earliest friends—a fellow-exile, who almost acted as his messenger twenty years ago—a conspirator in the *coup d'état*—a sharer in the splendours of the Empire and in its profits, who has for some time occupied a semi-official position without office—PERSIGNY, the author of a pamphlet advocating the restoration of Poland, becomes the French Ambassador at the Court of London.

It is just now that the *Morning Post*, which receives officious lights from the French Embassy in London, puts forward a suggestion for enforcing against Prussia the principle of "the rule of 1756"—that neutrals shall not be allowed to engage in a trade with belligerents during war, when that trade has not been allowed during peace. To what do these phenomena point?

It is just now, too, that EARL GREY announces in the House of Lords a motion to declare the regret of the peers at the failure of the Vienna negotiations, and their wish that the proposals of Russia should be accepted. This, of course, is a display of the Earl's eccentricity. He has condemned the war because it is not effectual, and he now professes to accept the offers with which the enemy mocks our demands.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH has also announced a motion, which stands for Monday next, a week earlier than EARL GREY's—also condemning the inefficiency of the war; and hinting that the House would support a more vigorous Government, and a more vigorous handling of the sword. Should it pass, it will be a censure upon our present Ministers, and it would almost point out LORD ELLENBOROUGH as, at least, one of the new Government to be placed in office, although of course the position of Ministers does not depend upon the House of Lords.

It depends upon the House of Commons; and there they feel themselves secure, as members suffer themselves to be driven about with very little regard to the power that they ought to possess collectively. They will force a Sebastopol inquiry upon Government, without much care for the possible consequences; but they cannot maintain a decidedly independent position. Possibly, if the Lords set them the example, they might become sturdier; and perhaps Ministers foresaw that possibility when LORD PALMERSTON, who had refused a night for MR. LAYARD, now offered him Monday night, as if for the very purpose of preventing one House from acting upon the other.

The reason why MR. LAYARD is slighted is evident. He has refused to identify himself with the Ministers, and has identified himself with the party throughout the country which, following up the initiatory movements in London, is gradually preparing to organise a national association. At the meeting on Saturday a committee was appointed for this purpose, and the committee is evidently making progress. Several provincial capitals had anticipated the movement, which is gaining ground in Derby, Norwich, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, &c. The Association will act upon the constituencies, and if present members do not look after their conduct, they will have to account for their seats. This, no doubt, is one reason why some members virtually place their votes at the disposal of Government. They want to stave off a dissolution.

They have shown this throughout the week in a certain listlessness and a disposition to let anything pass which Government did not prohibit. MR. HERWOOD's measure to permit the marriage with a deceased wife's sister has had its second reading; and an act of justice makes that further step, because injustice has fallen into the state of listlessness. But when SIR ERSKINE PERRY brings forward a well-considered motion for inquiry whether the Indian army, by being converted into a royal army, cannot be rendered useful in the wars of the empire as well as Indian officers, Government resists the breach of routine, and the House gives to Ministers 171 votes, where SIR ERSKINE, the Indian army, and the interests of the empire can only obtain 62.

The Sebastopol Committee, which early in the week threatened to run wide of the scent, re-

covered the trail later; and the evidence of LORD HARDINGE, MR. SIDNEY HERBERT, and Admiral DUNDAS, admits us into the arcana of Ministerial proceedings. The official devil is not so black as he has been painted: there were great exertions; and LORD PALMERSTON showed in the House last night that there have been real improvements in the war administration. But what of other departments? asked MAJOR REED. The deponent sayeth not.

The happiest incident in the week has been the performance of the Amateur Actors at Drury Lane last night, in the presence of the QUEEN and the royal children, for the benefit of the Wellington College. A noble cause, the best of company, and the gayest and gracefulest union of wit and charity—this is worth remembering, and worth recording. The occasion deserved all sympathy, and the quality of the performance justified its success.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

MISMANAGEMENT OF THE WAR.

IN the House of Lords, on Monday, the Earl of ELLENBOROUGH gave notice of moving, on Monday next, a series of resolutions with reference to the conduct of the war in the East, the general dissatisfaction and discontent occasioned by the inefficient manner in which it is prosecuted, and the detriment occasioned to the public service by not selecting public officers on the sole ground of merit and capacity.

ARMY REFORM.

LORD PANMURE gave notice that on Friday, the 18th, he would submit to the House a plan for the consolidation of the military departments.

CHARITABLE TRUSTS BILL.

IN answer to a question by LORD ST. LEONARDS, the LORD CHANCELLOR said that the delay in proceeding with the Charitable Trusts Bill is owing to the illness of the Lord President of the Council, who is at the head of the commissioners.

SECOND READINGS.

The Affirmation (Scotland) Bill, and the Income-tax Bill, were read a second time. The first of these bills passed through committee on Thursday; and the second was read a third time, and passed, by the Lords on the same night. An alteration was made in the first clause of the Affirmation Bill, confining its operation to courts of civil judicature.

HOSPITAL HUTS FOR THE EAST.

IN the House of Commons, replying to MR. STAFFORD, MR. FREDERICK PEEL stated that, in addition to the hospital huts which had been sent to the Crimea, orders had been given for the construction of huts which were intended to be erected near Constantinople, and a number of huts, capable of accommodating 1000 persons, had already left this country. The gentleman who was placed at the head of the medical staff for that block of huts was already upon the spot, assisting in the preparation of the ground for the erection of the huts. An additional number of 2000 huts were in course of preparation, and would be sent out as soon as possible.

NEWSPAPER STAMPS BILL.

ON the motion for the third reading of this bill, a discussion ensued on the subject of retransmission of newspapers through the post.—THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER stated that, if the House did not think the limit proposed in the bill long enough, he would not object to extending it from fifteen to thirty days.—MR. BRIGHT disagreed with the principle of retransmission altogether, and thought that the question could only be settled by resorting to the ordinary mode of paying postage: an opinion which was concurred in by MR. EWART, but dissented from by MR. CAYLEY.—MR. VANSITTART moved to defer the third reading of the bill for six months, which was supported by MR. WHITESIDE, who objected to the withdrawal of the copyright clause, and to the limitation of weight. The amendment, however, was opposed by MR. LABOUCHERE; and, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER having made a few observations in reply to MR. WHITESIDE, LORD PALMERSTON called attention to the indisposition of the SPEAKER, and suggested that the right hon. gentleman should be enabled to leave the chair, when the House could go into Committee of Supply, and the chair could be filled at a later period of the night in a manner provided for by an order of the House. Consequently, on the motion of the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, the debate was adjourned until Friday.

SUPPLY.

The House then went into Committee of Supply upon the Civil Service Estimates and Civil Contingencies, when several votes were agreed to, and, in answer to CAPTAIN SCOBELL, LORD PALMERSTON stated, with respect to the vote of 14,250*l.* for the salaries of the mixed commission for the suppression of the slave

trade, that Brazil has succeeded in putting down the importation of slaves, and that the capital formerly employed in that traffic is now applied to internal improvements. Cuba still continues to import a few slaves clandestinely; but the present governor is determined to use all his endeavours to suppress the trade.—On the vote of 157,765*l.* to defray the expenses of consular establishments abroad, MR. WILKS made certain objections with reference to the greater expense of the consuls in the Levant than in any other place; and observed, on the authority of a Turkish gentleman, that those consuls resort to unworthy practices for the sake of getting money.—LORD PALMERSTON, in reply, said that the Levant consuls have to perform judicial as well as commercial duties, and therefore require greater remuneration. With respect to the charge of corruption, he discredited it.—The vote was agreed to.

THE CHAIRMAN having reported progress, SIR DENIS LE MARCHANT, the chief clerk of the House, read a letter from the SPEAKER, stating that his indisposition compelled him to remain absent; upon which, LORD PALMERSTON moved that the resolution of the House on the 1st of August, 1855, be read, which directed that, in the unavoidable absence of the Speaker, the chair should be taken for that day by the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means. This was accordingly done, and MR. FITZMOIR took the Speaker's chair.

SPIRIT DUTIES BILL.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said that, as the Spirit Duties Bill then stood, it proposed to extend the drawback on malt spirits to England and Ireland, as well as Scotland. The present state of the law with respect to the drawback on spirits had given rise to considerable dissatisfaction; and accordingly he had under consideration a plan for permitting the distillation of spirits from malt, the effect of which would be that, instead of the duty being paid in the first instance, and a drawback of a certain amount allowed, no duty would be charged on the malt, but the spirit would be distilled without the previous imposition of the duty upon the premises of the distiller. In order to carry out this plan, however, it would be necessary to make a small addition to the existing duty, there being, according to the present arrangement, an allowance of 2*d.* from the duty on malt used in all the stages of distillation. It would not be possible to introduce these changes into the bill before the House; but, if the House gave its assent to that bill, he should be disposed, in the course of the session, to introduce a bill embodying these changes, so as to make this more extensive alteration of the law take effect as early as possible.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

VISCOUNT EBRINGTON, after moving for reports of the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers, and complaining that, owing to the present state of the law, no connexion in many cases exists between the main drains and the house drains, the latter being made at the expense of the householder or landlord, moved for leave to bring in a bill to empower the Commissioners of Sewers to expend on house drainage a certain sum out of the moneys borrowed by them on the security of the rates.—Leave was granted.

THE Intestacy (Scotland) Bill was read a third time and passed; and the Burial Grounds (Scotland) Bill went through committee.

VIENNA CONFERENCES.

IN the House of Lords, on Tuesday, the Earl of CLARENDON laid on the table papers connected with the negotiations for peace. A little routine business having been settled, their lordships adjourned.

NO HOUSE.

Only nine members being present in the House of Commons at four o'clock, when the Speaker took the chair, the House adjourned to the following day, when the Speaker explained that the scanty attendance was owing to his indisposition, and expressed his regret that any member should have been put to inconvenience.

MARRIAGES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

THE second reading of this bill was on Wednesday lost in the House of Commons, by a majority of 100 in favour of MR. ELLIOT's motion that it be read a second time that day six months. MR. HEADLAM, who had charge of the bill, stated that its object was to give effect to the principles of Scotch law so as to repress an evil which is fast deteriorating the morality of the northern counties of England. At present, marriages can be celebrated in Scotland by the consent of parties given in the presence of witnesses; and the consequence is, that minors and others cross the Border and get married without the slightest inquiry as to the position of the parties. They are often drunk when they get married, and may have only known each other a few hours, and it too frequently happens that the woman is subsequently abandoned by her husband. MR. HEADLAM therefore proposed to do away with this mode of marriage, and to inflict increased penalties for the violation of the other modes of marriage in Scotland.—The bill was supported by LORD LOVAT, MR. DUNLOP, MR. HOWARD, MR. INGHAM, and MR. J.

FORNEX; and opposed by Mr. NAPIER, Lord DUNCAN, Mr. WALFORD, Mr. PHILLIMORE, and Sir GEORGE GREY.—The LORD ADVOCATE, thinking that the bill was a meritorious step towards remedying an acknowledged evil, said he would not oppose the second reading, though he doubted if the measure would put a stop to the marriages complained of.—This, indeed, was the opinion generally taken by the opposers of the bill; and Mr. WALFORD pointed out that, as it was contemplated merely to impose a penalty upon the infringers of the law, the marriages would still take place between those rich enough to pay for them—which, he said, would be laying down one law for the rich, and another for the poor.

The Ecclesiastical Property (Ireland) Bill passed through committee.

MARRIAGE LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

The adjourned debate on the second reading of this bill was opened by Sir W. HEATHCOTE, who observed that, if there existed only a doubt as to the Divine prohibition of marriage with a deceased wife's sister, the House ought not to assume the serious responsibility of passing the bill.—Mr. PHINNS insisted that no one could point out a direct prohibition of such marriages in the Scriptures; and that, if there was really any objection founded in the moral law, there would be implanted in mankind a horror of these contracts. A similar view was taken by Mr. LOWE, who said that, in the absence of any direct Divine law, we must appeal to the human conscience.—To this, Mr. GLADSTONE replied by demanding "what is meant by conscience?"—the general conscience of individuals, or the private conscience of each person? As regards the first, he contended that that is sufficiently expressed by the law as it stands; and, with respect to the latter, he said that private conscience is not alone concerned. He warned those who use the 18th verse of the 18th chapter of Leviticus as a sanction for these marriages, that the same verse might be employed to sanction polygamy. He defied any one to show that the phrase "near of kin" does not include a wife's sister; and he condemned the bill as being a demand for a law to establish an anarchy in the Church of England and the country at large.—Mr. SPOONER supported the bill; and Mr. COBDEN replied to "the splendid fallacies" of Mr. Gladstone, who had endeavored to establish an analogy between bigamy and marriage with a deceased wife's sister, the latter being sanctioned by almost all the states of the Continent. The charge of bringing anarchy into the Church was met by Mr. COBDEN by the assertion that half our clergymen in the metropolis, and a large proportion in the manufacturing districts, are in favour of the change. The women of England, also, he said, are for an alteration in the law; and the Jews themselves have stated that they consider such marriages legal and proper.—The bill was further supported by Mr. PHILLIMORE, and opposed by Mr. ROUNDELL PALMER; and the second reading was carried by 165 to 157.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCES.

Earl GREY on Thursday gave the following notice for Monday, the 21st inst.: "That an humble address be presented to her Majesty, to thank her Majesty for having ordered the protocols of the recent negotiations at Vienna to be laid before us; to inform her Majesty that this House deeply deplores the failure of the attempt to put an end, by these negotiations, to the calamities of the war in which the country is now engaged; and to express our opinion that the proposals of Russia were such as to afford a fair prospect of concluding a peace by which all the original objects of the war might have been gained, and by which her Majesty and her allies might have obtained all the advantages which can reasonably be demanded from Russia."—The Earl of CLARENDON laid on the table a copy of the protocols of the Vienna Conferences.

FISHERIES (BRITISH ISLANDS AND FRANCE) BILL.

This bill was read a second time on the motion of Lord STANLEY of ALDERLEY, who explained its object to be the better carrying out of the provisions of the treaty of 1839, which defines the limits within which the fishermen of either country are to fish. It appeared that the English fishermen have disregarded the treaty, and have frequently encroached upon French waters; and that, until the last two or three years, the French, who have faithfully observed the treaty, have been obliged to send out armed boats, by which the English fishermen have been taken into Doope.

SECOND READING.

The Church Patronage Transfer Bill was read a second time.

THE SEBASTOPOL COMMITTEE.

A message was brought up by Mr. Roebuck and other members of the House of Commons, asking leave to examine the Earl of Aberdeen and Lord DE RUS as witnesses before the Sebastopol Inquiry Committee.—On the motion of the Duke of ABERDEEN, leave was given.

THE ADMIRALTY COURT: BREACH OF BLOCKADE.

Sir G. B. FRIZZELL begged to ask the First Lord

of the Admiralty if his attention had been called to the case of the vessel named Ostgee, seized by her Majesty's ship Alban for breach of blockade, and restored without cost by decree of the Admiralty Court, but on appeal costs and damages were awarded against the captain of the Alban; and to inquire if the officers of her Majesty's ships, under such circumstances, are to be held responsible for such expenses.—Sir CHARLES WOOD believed that the facts were as stated by his hon. and gallant friend, but no application on the subject had yet been made to him by the parties interested in the decision, and he did not think it would be prudent for him to state then in the House his opinion on a matter that might be brought formally before him.

LORD DUNDONALD'S INVENTION.—MR. LAYARD'S MOTION.

Lord PALMERSTON, in reply to Mr. FRENCH, said the plans of the Earl of Dundonald had been submitted for consideration to several persons of eminence, and among others to Professors Faraday, Playfair, and Graham.—He then stated that on Monday night he would consent that the Government business should give way to the motion of Mr. Layard, if he could prevail on other gentlemen who had precedence of him on the paper to waive their right to enable him to bring it on.—Later in the evening, Mr. LAYARD, observing that a debate on the administrative system of the country was appointed to take place "elsewhere" on Monday next, considered that he consulted the convenience of the House by postponing the discussion of his own motion on the subject.

THE NEGOTIATIONS.

Lord PALMERSTON, in answer to Mr. BRIGHT, said there had been no formal or written proposal made by the Austrian Government since the 26th of April. Verbal communications had passed between the representatives of the Austrian Government and those of the English and French Governments, and also between the representatives of the French and English Governments; but he was sure Mr. Bright would feel that, considering the relations between the three Governments, it would not be for the public interest to give a detailed explanation with regard to them. With respect to the question whether the negotiations were entirely broken off, his answer was similar to that which he gave the other evening—that the elements of a conference still exist at Vienna, there being at that city a British representative, a French representative, a representative of Turkey, a representative of Austria, and a representative of Russia.—Responding to a further question from Mr. BRIGHT, Lord PALMERSTON said that, in his opinion, inconveniences might result from a discussion of the question, but that each member must use his own discretion in the matter.

THE INDIAN ARMY.

Sir ERSKINE PERRY moved for a select committee to consider how the army of India may be made most available for the war in Europe, and to inquire into the steps necessary to be taken if it should be deemed expedient to constitute the army of the East India Company a royal army. He quoted a variety of statistics, showing that the Indian army amounts to 460,000 men and 12,000 officers; and cited the opinions of the Marquis of Wellesley, the late Sir Charles Napier, Lord Gough, Sir Willoughby Cotton, and other high military authorities, to prove that the soldiers of the East India Company's Service are among the best in the world. Sir Erskine then proceeded to argue that this army holds out a legitimate source from whence to augment the regular forces in time of war, thus superseding the necessity for foreign legions. He admitted that the recent memorandum, assigning the same position to the Company's officers that is taken by the Queen's officers of corresponding rank, is an advance in the right direction; but he held that it does not go far enough. He wished to see a complete incorporation of the two services, so that the Indian army might be as available for this country as the royal army itself. His motion, he urged, pledged the House to no opinion: it merely asked for inquiry; and, considering the magnitude of the question, he trusted the committee would be granted.—The motion was seconded by Sir DE LACY EVANS, who enlarged upon the loss sustained by the country, owing to the non-employment of such experienced soldiers as the Indian army contains; and remarked that that army would itself be benefited by being commanded by royal officers. He thought, however, that the Sepoys would not be of any use in the Crimea.—Mr. OTWAY and Mr. JOHN MACGREGOR further supported the motion, which was opposed by Sir J. FITZGERALD, Colonel DUNNE, Mr. J. G. PHILLIMORE, Mr. DANBY SEYMOUR, Sir J. W. HOGG, and Mr. VERNON SMITH, on the general grounds that the proposed change would cause great confusion and inconvenience to both services; that no great number of men could be spared from service in India; that it would be very unjust to take the management of the Indian forces out of the hands of the Company, who are best acquainted with the necessities of the service; that the Governor-General of India is the only person

capable of judging whether any portion of the army could be dispensed with; that the constitution and internal arrangements of the Indian and the royal armies are so totally different, that amalgamation would be totally impracticable; and that, even as it is, the former is to a certain extent available for foreign purposes, having been used in expeditions to Egypt, to Ceylon, to Java, to the Mauritius, to the Eastern Archipelago, and to Afghanistan, which last, contended Sir J. W. HOGG, was essentially an expedition for European purposes. Besides, added the same speaker, "the services of Indian officers are at this moment required in aid of our regular army; hundreds of volunteers from the Indian army have come forward; and Indian officers are now serving in the Crimea, and in various departments of the army of the East."—Mr. VERNON SMITH, in urging similar views, said he thought the question was unfit for reference to a select committee, and warned the House that, as we are now at war with Russia, we must not overlook the safety of our Indian Empire.—Sir ERSKINE PERRY having briefly replied, the House divided, when the motion was lost by 171 to 62.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

The motion for going into Committee on this bill was resisted by Mr. CUMMING BRUCE, on the ground of the lateness of the hour (twenty minutes to eleven); and he therefore moved the adjournment of the debate. A majority of 46 against this motion having been exhibited by a division, the debate proceeded, and Mr. BRUCE moved an amendment to the effect, that the Committee be instructed to divide the measure into two bills—one relating to the parochial schools, the other to the new schools contemplated by the bill. His object, he explained, was to enable the Legislature to adopt the useful provisions of the Lord Advocate's measure, without sweeping away the existing system of parochial schools in connexion with the Church of Scotland.—Lord DALKEITH then moved the adjournment of the discussion, to which the LORD ADVOCATE consented, and it was postponed to Monday.

The Ecclesiastical Property (Ireland) Bill was read a third time, and passed.

CONSTITUTION FOR VICTORIA.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL obtained leave to bring in a bill enabling her Majesty to assent to a bill passed by the Legislature of Victoria, establishing a constitution in that colony.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE AND THE LAW OF DIVORCE BILLS.

Sir JOHN PAKINGTON wished to ask the Solicitor-General for England whether the Government were prepared to introduce a Church Discipline Bill before the second reading of the English Testamentary Bill; and, whether the Church Discipline Bill would deal with the United Church of England and Ireland as one Church; also, whether the Government would introduce a Matrimonial and Divorce Bill before the second reading of the English Testamentary Bill.—The SOLICITOR-GENERAL said the bill for the improvement of the courts with respect to church discipline, which at the present moment is in a state that involves great reproach, was prepared under his direction at the same time as the Testamentary Jurisdiction Bill. When the latter bill was introduced, it had not been submitted to the consideration of the Government. This had, however, been done since, and the Government thought it right and becoming that the opinions of the right rev. prelates, or some of them, should be taken before that bill was introduced into the House of Lords. The bill was prepared on the principle of treating the United Church of England and Ireland as one Church, and he knew of no other legal principle on which it could be prepared. With regard to the time of its introduction, the House would see from what he had stated that it was impossible for him to say whether or not it would be brought in before the second reading of the Testamentary Jurisdiction Bill, seeing that there was to be an adjourned debate on that bill. The Government had not the slightest intention of abandoning the Testamentary Jurisdiction Bill, although it had been compelled to yield for the present to measures of a more pressing character. A Matrimonial and Divorce Bill had been prepared, and it would be introduced immediately after the House had expressed its opinion with regard to the Testamentary Jurisdiction Bill on the second reading.

THE SEBASTOPOL COMMITTEE.

MONDAY.

Sir THOMAS HASTINGS was further examined, and stated that several instances had occurred in which documents connected with Ordnance business had had only one signature; but not in any case where money is concerned, and, as a general rule, all matters involving a principle require two signatures. Documents with one signature carry the authority of the board only in departmental matters. Passing to details, he stated that an order for five thousand waterproof sheets was given a little before last November, and that they were not received at the Tower until the 22nd of January, 1855.

He then proceeded to make certain allegations, which were very obscurely expressed, but the upshot of which appears to be, that Mr. Monsell, the clerk to the Ordnance, interfered greatly with his (witness's business). On a vacancy occurring at the Tower, Sir Thomas recommended two gentlemen, and their papers were sent in; but Mr. Monsell "took away the papers," and he believed they went "elsewhere." Nothing further was done in the matter, though Sir Hew Ross, the Lieutenant-General of Ordnance, acting in the place of Lord Raglan, had decided on promoting the two gentlemen referred to. Witness believed the whole of this disorganisation arose from the absence of the Master-General. He certainly did not think that anything of this sort would have occurred if the Master-General had been present. Nevertheless, Sir Thomas stated that he believed Sir Hew Ross's privileges to be identical with those of the Master-General; and yet that "no order could be given for any expenditure of money without the signature of the Master-General." Another instance of Mr. Monsell's interference arose in this way:—A gentleman of great ability was appointed to an office, but in two or three instances evinced an insubordinate turn of mind. On two occasions, he was reprimanded by Sir Hew Ross, who, the second time, took the advice of the witness, and of General Cator at Woolwich. Both agreed with him; and the gentleman received a written rebuke. Thereupon, Mr. Monsell called upon the board to rescind their proceedings, and told them that, if they did not do so, he would place the papers in the hands of the Secretary for War. Ultimately, "the papers were taken away by Mr. Monsell," to use the precise words of the witness, who added that he "believed" they were placed in the hands of the Secretary for War. They had never been returned, nor had the decision which had been come to been rescinded. Sir Thomas did not think that the requisition as regarded huts for the troops in the Crimea had been carried out with the accustomed regularity. The matter was carried on between the war department and the Secretary at War, and finally by the Board of Ordnance, who approved of what had been done.

Mr. Monsell, clerk to the Ordnance, was next examined. The most important part of his evidence related to a statement that he had on his own authority ordered two bays to be added to the laboratory at Woolwich. This statement Mr. Monsell entirely denied; asserting, however, at the same time, that the bays were really wanted, and that they would be no loss of money. Lord Seymour, observing that there must have been some person to represent the Board of Ordnance, inquired who that person was; but Mr. Monsell could not say.—The Chairman: "What steps did the Board of Ordnance take on discovering the irregularity?"—Mr. Monsell: "I cannot tell; for I was not in London at the time."—The Chairman observed that it appeared a public work was altered, and the alteration proceeded with, without a knowledge of the fact coming to the Board; to which Mr. Monsell assented, adding that the sanction of the work was given by the Board on the 15th of January, after the work had been executed; and that the officer of Engineers, Captain Collinson, must have believed he had a verbal order from witness to go on with it. Captain Collinson appeared to have made a distinction between the bays and the object for which they were to be erected, and to have thought that, though witness did not sanction the purpose to which the building was first to have been applied, he did sanction the building itself. The contract for the building, Mr. Monsell thought, must have been made with Captain Collinson. The witness then proceeded to give some particulars concerning the shell-foundry at Woolwich. Finding last May that there was a lamentable deficiency in the supply of shells, he sent for Captain Boxer, of the Royal Laboratory, told him their position, their difficulties, and asked his advice. He said, if they would place at his disposal the sum of 7000*l.*, he would erect machinery that should not only do the work rapidly, but, in a short time would save the whole expense. Captain Boxer was second in command of the Royal Laboratory. He (Mr. Monsell) thereupon took upon himself to sanction the expenditure of 7000*l.*, and the result of having done so was, as he could satisfactorily show the committee, a saving in one week of 1200*l.* to the country in the construction of shells. At the same time they were placed beyond the possibility of ever running aground for shells. In answer to Sir John Pakington, Mr. Monsell acknowledged that he took no steps for ascertaining if the 7000*l.* was the correct sum for the service, and that the work was ordered upon the unsupported assurance of Captain Boxer that that sum would be required. He gave the order without any sanction on the part of his colleagues. According to his view, he had the power to do so. Mr. Monsell denied the assertion of Sir Thomas Hastings that the building had been constructed on a larger scale than the contract to which he affixed his signature. The witness then gave some details of the differences between Colonel Wilson and Captain Boxer at Woolwich, to which Sir Thomas Hastings had obscurely referred. These, he said, arose from Colonel Wilson refusing to allow Captain Boxer to dismiss, for inattention, a man employed in his shell factory. The former stood on his authority as superior officer; the latter contended that, unless he had full power over the men in his own factory, he could not carry on the works properly. Upon this,

Captain Boxer was reprimanded; but Mr. Monsell, knowing the great services the captain had rendered, placed the whole matter in the hands of the War Minister, and urged the expediency of withdrawing the censure.

TUESDAY.

Sir Thomas Hastings was recalled, and gave some very intricate explanations respecting the order for the huts. Mr. Monsell's examination was then resumed. He stated that he had received a letter from Captain Collinson relative to the construction of the two bays, from which it appeared that the bricklayers' and carpenters' work was not begun until the proceedings had been sanctioned by the board. Mr. Monsell then gave a variety of details, the upshot of which indicates a state of considerable disorganisation in the Ordnance. A minute, relating to the purchase of some machinery, Mr. Monsell said he could not find; and it came out that "all minutes, excepting those of very great importance, are kept upon loose sheets of paper." In the course of his evidence, the following conversation ensued between the witness, Mr. Layard, and General Peel:—

Mr. Layard.—"At the beginning of the war was the Board of Ordnance in a condition to meet the urgent demands on them?"—Certainly not.

"To what do you attribute that want?"—Undoubtedly there was not a sufficient quantity of stores, not sufficient means of procuring them, no such appliances as I have described in my evidence respecting the manufacture of fuses, and altogether we were in a state of considerable difficulty. We were compelled to use very extraordinary means to overcome those difficulties, or we should have been in a worse state than we are.

"To what do you attribute those deficiencies?"—I attribute them almost entirely, if not altogether, to the small amount of warlike stores we had in hand at the time of commencing war.

General Peel.—"Was that attributable to Parliament not having voted sufficient money?"—Yes, if the money was asked for; but as much is attributable to Government.

Mr. Layard.—"Has the Government ever been refused money by Parliament?"—I never heard of it.

"Then it is not right to throw on Parliament the blame of the defective state of the Ordnance?"—I said the Government is as much responsible for it as the Parliament.

In answer to other questions, Mr. Monsell said the difficulties which had lately arisen in the Ordnance were rather attributable to the fact of the Board being as it were in a moribund state, it being well known that large changes of organisation were contemplated. A change of practice had occurred since the separation of the Colonies from the War Department, but no difference occurred at the Board of Ordnance until November. He further said that he fully concurred in the opinion of the Duke of Newcastle that the organisation of the department is defective.

At the close of Mr. Monsell's evidence, Sir F. Smith, Commander of Engineers, was called. His testimony, which was brief, related to the contract for the huts; but it did not contain any points of general interest.

WEDNESDAY.

Mr. Sidney Herbert was examined; and commenced his evidence by giving a technical description of his official position as Under-Secretary for War, from which it appeared that his duties were greatly complicated with those of the Secretary-at-War, the Commander-in-Chief, and the heads of the Treasury. He stated that the office of Secretary-at-War is virtually not abolished even now, but that the office is held simultaneously with the Secretaryship of State for War by Lord Panmure, it being necessary to continue the nominal existence of the office, in consequence of the existence of particular acts of Parliament, which must be repealed formally if the office were altogether abolished. Preparations were not at first made for a long stay in the Crimea, as it was intended to take Sebastopol by a *coup de main*. When the army left Varna, Dr. Hall gave orders that all necessary stores and medical comforts should be sent on from there to Constantinople; but, whether from deficiency of transport or misunderstanding, this was not done; and on the occasion of the first importation of sick and wounded to Scutari there was a great want of medical comforts and stores. To remedy this state of things, Mr. Herbert said that he wrote to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, and kept up a continuous correspondence with the medical officers and purveyors there, ordering them to exert themselves, to purchase on the spot everything that was obtainable, and to let him know what were their present and what their future wants. He believed that the establishment of the general hospital at Scutari proceeded from Lord Raglan; and he supposed he ordered it on the recommendation of Mr. Calvert, who had considerable local knowledge. He (Mr. Herbert) took every necessary precaution that neither forms nor economical considerations should militate against the efficiency of the hospital establishment at Scutari; and he accordingly wrote to Dr. Menzies, the head of the medical department, and to Mr. Wreford, the purveyor, and to Major Sillery, the then commandant, urging upon them strongly the simplification of all forms, and every effort was made to purchase whatever could be had on the spot; for, though a check upon expenditure is very necessary in time of peace, in time of war, pounds, shillings, and pence are not to be put in competition with human life. These communications were in writing, and were made in conse-

quence of statements that appeared in the press denouncing in strong terms the deficient state of the hospital. He received, however, letters from Dr. Menzies, contradicting these statements in the strongest terms. But the fact he believed was, that there was plenty that would bear contradiction, and plenty, uncontradicted, sufficient to condemn the system. He gave Mr. Wreford, the purveyor, *carte blanche* as regards expenditure; writing to him to that effect on the 11th of last December. He doubt a great part of the difficulties that occurred arose from not having an efficient military commandant. His belief, from all he had heard, was, that Major Sillery was a man who worked very indefatigably in his own department, according to his own light; but he was not a man of that rank in the army that ought to have been placed in charge of so gigantic an establishment. It was perfectly true that Major Sillery had not by any means an adequate staff for an hospital of 3000 or 5000 people, and such an establishment would necessarily require a very large staff to inspect it daily, and report on its condition. But as he (Mr. Herbert) thought it right to have an officer of higher rank, he recommended Lord William Paulet to the Duke of Newcastle; and that nobleman succeeded Major Sillery. Under his supervision, the defects in the administration of the hospital were amended.—Having given some particulars with respect to the supply of clothing, the witness went on to state that he thought Sir Thomas Hastings had misapprehended the facts when he said that he (Mr. Herbert) had ordered fur caps at 6*s.* 8*d.* for the troops when they could be got in the market for 5*s.* 10*d.* On Mr. Herbert making some allusion to the Foreign Legion, Mr. Drummond asked him if he did not think it would be advantageous to have a legion of Spanish *hagibazouks*. At this there was some laughter, in which Mr. Herbert joined, and made no other answer. On resuming his evidence, he stated that he appointed the firm of Howell and Hayter as packers of the army stores, but that he was "not aware that he knew" that Mr. Hayter, of that firm, is brother to Mr. Hayter of the Treasury, though, if he had known it, it would not have influenced him. He believed that the subordinates in the office of the Secretary-at-War are the most efficient that are to be found in any of the public departments under the Crown; and he attributed this to the system which prevails there of promotion by merit, rather than by seniority, to which, however, there are occasional exceptions. With the view to correct the evil of the different departments acting in ignorance of the proceedings of one another, he proposed to the Duke of Newcastle in the course of last year to have periodical meetings at the War-office of the heads of all the departments; so that when instructions were given by the Secretary of State they should be given in the presence of all the heads. That proposition was adopted, and it worked so well that the Government thought it necessary to give those periodical meetings a more formal character. Accordingly, before leaving office, he was desirous of bringing the heads of the war departments under a board, which would have partly resembled that of the Admiralty, only the Minister for War would have been more of an autocrat than the First Lord of the Admiralty. That board would have consisted of the Commander-in-Chief, to govern the army; the Master-General of the Ordnance, to arm and equip the army; the Secretary-at-War, to control the finance of the army and move the whole war estimates in Parliament; and a commissary-general, if it was thought necessary, to feed the army.

This concluded the evidence of Mr. Herbert and the business of the day.

THURSDAY.

The first witness examined on this day was Mr. Wood, Secretary to the Board of Ordnance during the last eighteen months, and for fifty years in the service. He said that he was not aware of any particular inconvenience arising from the absence of the Master-General. Nevertheless, he stated that the Master-General could reverse the proceedings of the general board, but that the Lieutenant-General could not; so that the power which was complete in the Master-General, became divided in the Lieutenant-General. The latter, however, had the same superintending power as the former on all military subjects. Referring to the shell-foundry at Woolwich, the witness said that, if it was commenced before the matter came before the board, it was irregular. During the length of time he had been in the service, he never knew a large public building commenced without the sanction of the board and of the Master-General. He admitted, however, that a tender could be accepted by one member of the board, and that, in fact, a large contract might be entered into by one member alone; but the Board of Ordnance would be responsible.

Rear-Admiral Dundas, formerly in command of the Black Sea Fleet, was next examined, and said, in answer to the Chairman, that the Admiralty, on his sailing, gave him a "roughish statement" of the maritime strength of Russia, but that it was an old, not a recent, statement.

The Chairman.—"But did you not know its strength better when you got into the Black Sea?"

Admiral Dundas.—"Not a bit of it. (Laughter.) I applied to the ambassador at Constantinople, and he sent me just such another as I had from the Admiralty—worth nothing." He then proceeded to say that he made inquiries of the consuls in the Dardanelles, but could get no information. He therefore wrote a letter to Lord

THE WAR.

Stratford, the ambassador, suggesting that he should allow a Maltese interpreter to go to Sebastopol, to see what was going on there, and what their fleet was like; but he received no answer from the ambassador. He then sent Captain Drummond to the ambassador, who stated that there was a doubt or difficulty about giving the Maltese man a passport. In short, his inquiries concerning the fleet in Sebastopol were not attended with any success. The witness attributed this to backwardness on the part of the authorities, who, however, did not impede him, but were excessively slow in getting and giving particulars. Indeed, they were hindered by the vigilance of the Russian Government. Admiral Dundas then gave other instances of his ineffectual efforts to obtain information. Before the war broke out, he and the French Admiral were entirely under the orders of their Governments. The witness said he could not have moved his fleet without the authority of the ambassador, and, the French Admiral being his superior, he was obliged to consult him also; but the orders of the ambassador would have overridden those of his (witness's) naval coadjutor if there had been a difference of opinion. This was the state of things before the war commenced; afterwards, "it was another matter." Admiral Dundas also stated that the blockade did not take place for a long time. On the Chairman asking if the enemy's ships did not come out of Sebastopol, the Admiral replied—"Very often two or three of them did," but he added, that he never heard of a Russian steamer coming so far up as the Bosphorus. He (Admiral Dundas) on the 10th of May addressed a letter to Lord Raglan, expressing his opinion that Sebastopol was a second Gibraltar, and that 120,000 Russians were in the Crimea, of whom 30,000 were in Sebastopol; and that there were fourteen or sixteen sail of the line in the harbour. The letter concluded with a hope that his lordship had better information than he (Admiral Dundas) respecting Russian operations and resources. (Laughter).—Proceeding to the details of warlike operations, the witness stated that the means of transport at his disposal were sufficient for conveying the British army, but not for all the baggage—animals, many of which—he believed 2000 or 3000—were left behind at Varna. At that time he had no means of obtaining additional transports. Speaking of the coaling of the fleet, Mr. Roebuck asked—"Could you not have had a steam-tug in the Bosphorus for coaling the steamers?" Admiral Dundas answered that "if you had had a dozen steam-tugs in the Bosphorus you could not have done it." Upon which Mr. Roebuck asked the witness "if he expected Providence to provide the coals?" To this Admiral Dundas responded—"It was Providence that prevented their being supplied." And then there was laughter, and the witness went on to state that the duty of supplying coals devolved upon Admiral Boxer.

Mr. Roebuck.—"Did you receive orders from the Admiralty respecting the blockade of the Euxine?"—I did; but, if you ask me one word about the blockade of the Euxine, I must speak of the French. (A laugh.)

Mr. Roebuck.—"Then you will blockade me." (Laughter.)

Mr. Drummond asked the witness whether Captain Christie, "not having enough of the devil in him, had not been in the habit of using foul language?" This question was met with cries of "No, no," from several of the committee. Admiral Dundas said, "I am afraid you mean another man;" but Mr. Drummond persisted. The room was then cleared; and in about half an hour the committee separated without readmitting the public.

FRIDAY.

Lord Hardinge was examined, and commenced his testimony by giving an account of the duties of the Master-General of the Ordnance, which he said consist of having charge of the artillery and engineering departments. When he (Lord Hardinge) came into office in 1852, he proposed to Lord Derby that the artillery should be augmented, because he thought that in its then state the country was not safe. This was done; and the artillery is now so efficient as to be the admiration of the French. Although it was true that the last regiments of infantry had left the country without Minié rifles, they would be provided with them on arriving at Balaklava. In 1828, when the late Duke of Wellington was at the head of the Ordnance, and he (Lord Hardinge) was clerk, it was considered in a high state of perfection. In 1852, when he returned to it, he found the desire to reduce expenditure had been carried so far that the clerks and others were overworked. This, instead of having produced unity and simplicity, had caused confusion. Speaking of the reserves that had been sent out, Lord Hardinge said that, notwithstanding the deaths at Varna and at Balaklava, up to the end of December, the force he had provided was equal to the force that first went out, and, including the artillery, rather stronger; but at length he could do no other than send out young recruits, who, instead of being composed of bone and muscle, were only gristle. With respect to the state of the hospitals, Lord Hardinge said that he was not aware whether Lord Raglan, whose duty it was to have instituted an inquiry into a false report made by Dr. Hall, had done so.

Dr. Mapleton, private physician to Lord Raglan, was next examined, and gave testimony condemnatory of the sanitary state of the army up to the time he left.

THE war news of the week is again warlike. Yesterday evening, London was thrown into excitement by a telegraphic despatch, dated the day before, and which we publish in a subsequent column, giving an account of two successive and desperate sorties by the Russians on our advanced works, ending in the usual fate of such attacks—entire defeat, with bitter loss to the aggressors. No doubt the loss on our side was considerable too; but of this, as yet, we have no information.

In our Latest Edition of last week we published a despatch from Lord Raglan, intimating that, on the night of the 1st of May, a sharp engagement took place in front and left attack, when the whole of the Russian rifle-pits were taken, together with eight light mortars, and two hundred prisoners. A despatch from St. Petersburg, dated the 7th inst., and received at Berlin on the 8th, says:—

"On the night between the 1st and 2nd, the enemy, having concentrated 10,000 men, took possession of the lodgments in front of Bastion No. 5, and captured nine small cohorn mortars. On the 2nd, the enemy opened a heavy cannonade on Bastions Nos. 4 and 5, and on the adjoining lines. The damage which they did was repaired during the night. We fired with success five mines against the enemy's approaches."

The first of the attacks here mentioned would seem to refer to operations by the French, who, after a fierce engagement, took possession of some very important works of counter approach, and, according to General Canrobert, eight—not nine—small hand mortars. In these works they have maintained themselves, notwithstanding an energetic sortie made by the Russians on the evening of the 2nd. The French are now fortifying themselves in their new position, which, says the *Patrie*, forms a sort of plateau, and is only about thirty or forty metres distant from the enemy.

On May 5th, the enemy assaulted the advanced trench of our right attack, but were repulsed promptly; our loss, according to the telegraphic despatch, being only three killed, and twenty wounded. The Russians still continue to make advanced works and new defences; and they have completely restored the Malakoff; the Mamelon, and the Redan. It appears, however, that the Flagstaff Battery—where the French exploded their mines, and before which they are now established—is irreparably injured. On the other hand, the Allies steadily persevere in their approaches.

We do not hear of any resumption of the bombardment, for which, indeed, it seems that cannon of greater weight is necessary. On the night of the 27th, however, the artillery was for a time brought into play with great energy, and on the 28th there was a sharp fire of musketry. Two batteries have been established in the fourth parallel.

The weather is again fine and mild, with occasional heavy rains; but the advent of summer brings with it fears of cholera and fever. Two cases of the former have already occurred; the latter is never wholly absent from the camp; and the awful and deadly odours that reek up from the vast accumulation of dead bodies are making themselves too plainly perceptible, and suggesting horrible fears of what the heats of June and July may bring forth.

Omar Pacha has returned to Eupatoria with ten battalions, his position being menaced, according to reports, by a large body of Russians, who are said to be preparing for an attack. With respect, however, to the Russian forces, it may be remarked that the reconnaissance made by Omar on the 19th ult. would seem to indicate that, as many people have already suspected, the Czar's army is not over large. A writer in the *Times* remarks that it is now questioned by competent authorities whether the Russians have ever had 100,000 men at once in the Crimea. Still, it will not do to be too confident. We have suffered enough from that already.

Accounts from Cracow state that the Russians are making the most vigorous military efforts along the whole line of defence from Finland to Lublin in Poland. The people, however, must be worn out at last; and then we shall have an insurrection similar in object to that in the Ukraine, and more successful, because more general and overwhelming.

THE RECONNOISSANCE ON THE 19TH OF APRIL.

We gave last week from the *Morning Herald* an account of this affair. The following additional details—bringing vividly before our eyes the desolations of war—are from the picturesque and vital pen of the *Times* Correspondent:—"Rectangular patches of long, rank, rich grass, waving high above the more natural green meadow, marked the mounds where the slain of the 25th of October are reposing for ever, and where the snorting horse refuses to eat the unwholesome shoots. As the force moved on, evidences of that fatal and glorious day became thick and painful. The skeleton of an English Dragoon, said to be one of the Royals, lay still extended on the plain, with tattered

bits of red cloth hanging to the bones of his arms. All the buttons had been cut off the jacket. The man must have fallen early in the day, when the heavy cavalry were close up to Canrobert's hill and came under the fire of the Russian artillery. There was also a Russian skeleton close at hand in ghastly companionship. The small bullet-skull, round as a cannon-ball, had been picked bare, all save the scalp, which was still covered with grisly red locks. Further on, amid fragments of shell and round shot, the body of another Russian seemed starting out of the grave, which scarcely covered his lower extremities. The half-decayed skeletons of artillery and cavalry horses covered with rotting trappings, harness, and saddles, lay as they fell in the agonies of death, or had crumbled away into a *débris* of bone and skin, and leather straps, cloth, and buckles. From the numerous graves, the uncovered bones of the tenants had started up through the soil, as if to appeal against the haste with which they had been buried. With the clash of drums and the shrill strains of the fife, with the clamping of bits and the ringing of steel, man and horse swept over the remnants of their fellows in all the pride of life."

TAKING THE RIFLE PITS.

About eight o'clock (on the 19th of April) the party of the 77th, under Lieut.-Colonel Egerton, supported by a wing of the 83rd, under Lieut.-Colonel Mundy, moved down the traverses towards the rifle pits. The night was dark and windy; but the Russian sentries perceived the approach of our men, and a brisk fire was at once opened on them by the enemy, to which the troops scarcely replied, for, firing a terrible volley, they rushed upon the enemy with the bayonet, and, after a short but desperate struggle, drove them out of the two pits and up the slope behind them. Once in the pits, the engineers, officers, and the sappers and miners set to work to strengthen the defences, and threw up a gabionnade in front, and with great coolness and courage proceeded to connect the trench of the nearest of the rifle pits with our advanced sap. The enemy opened an exceedingly heavy fire of round, grape, and shell upon them, and the Russian sharpshooters from the parapets of the batteries and from the broken ground behind the abatis kept up a very severe fusillade; but the working party continued at their work in defiance of the storm of shot which tore over them. In such a contest as this it could not be expected that our loss would be considerable. Captain Owen, R.E., well known in England as an officer of high scientific attainments, and who has devoted himself to the more arduous duties of his profession with great zeal and ability since he came out here, was severely wounded. Lieutenant Baynes, a very active and brave young officer, was also struck down by a bullet, and is now in some danger, though his attendants think his life is safe. Captain Lempiere, of the 77th, a very young officer, who has served throughout the campaign with his regiment, and who has never left it from the time they landed in Bulgaria, was killed. A boy in years and in stature, he behaved like a veteran soldier. Lieutenant Knight, of the same regiment, also distinguished himself in the attack, and escaped unhurt. He was the first to leap into the rifle pits, and his example encouraged his men at the time they were staggering under the tremendous fire directed against them. Our men remained in possession of the larger of the pits under the trying circumstances I have mentioned, without any decided attempt being made to turn them out. The general of the day of the right attack telegraphed to head-quarters that our troops had gained the pits; and he received directions in reply from Major-General Jones to keep them at all hazards. At two o'clock in the morning, a strong column of Russians, certainly double the strength of our men, advanced against the pits, and the combat was renewed. The English troops fought with "the immovable solidity" for which, in the opinion of our allies, they are celebrated. The enemy charged them with the bayonet, but they were met by courage more cool and by arms more nervous than their own; and by the bayonet they were thrust back again and again, and at its point they were driven up to their batteries once more. It was while setting an example of conspicuous bravery to his men that Colonel Egerton fell mortally wounded.—*Times Correspondent.*

THE VALUE OF THE RIFLE PITS.

The capture of these ambuscades has been found of great value, not only on account of the removal of an impediment to the progress of our sap in this direction, and of the annoyance caused by the fire of the Russian riflemen against our artillerymen, but also on account of the opportunity it has afforded our men of interrupting the Russian artillerymen in the Redan. The ambuscade first taken, and now connected with our trench, at present forms a miniature bastion, as it were, and from its loopholed wall, turned towards the enemy, our men discharge their Miniés with impunity. The work is so close to the Redan, and in such a position, that its guns cannot be sufficiently depressed so as to bear against it. Some men of the first battalion of the Rifle Brigade have also been placed under cover on the opposite side of the left ravine—near to which, on the right, our zigzag is being formed—and have thus been brought to act in concert with the troops in the advanced trench on the right

attack. The united fire of these two bodies has for the present almost silenced the Redan: a gunner could not show himself near any of the embrasures but he was at once marked down, and the Russian artillerymen were compelled to close these openings. In turn, the enemy is constructing another formidable cover for his riflemen, taking advantage in its formation of a large quarry a short way below the abattis which extends in front of the battery above.—*Daily News Correspondent.*

A LURKING DANGER IN THE CAMP.

The mildness of the weather has again attracted attention to one of the yet unremedied evils of Balaklava and the camps. Even now, long before the hot season has set in, the stench from the graveyards outside Balaklava is abominable, and these graveyards are under the very noses of the Guards and Highlanders (71st Regiment), who are encamped on hills on either side of the plague spot. The burying in that locality has now been stopped—the graves have been covered with quicklime—in short, Colonel Harding and Captain Deacon have done, not indeed all that can be done, but all that they, in their positions and with their limited authority, could do, to mitigate the infection which threatens the army. The corpses are now sent up to the hills, or a little way out into the plain. From the hills the spring rains must wash the corruption down into the valley, and the plain is at this season full of water and vegetation. It needs not the aid of putrid flesh, &c., to send up poisonous exhalations as soon as the summer heat commences. As it is, disease will surely claim a greater number of victims, and these victims in their turn will add to the virulence of the disease. I have weeks and weeks ago pointed out these evils and the only remedy I can find for them. Even now it is late, but not too late to adopt it. There must be no more burials within the circuit of the camps. The dead of each day must be carried out to sea in steamers from Balaklava and Kamiesch, and sunk at a distance of twenty, or, if need be, of forty and even eighty miles from these shores. Hard as it is, the expense must be incurred. It will be a saving in the end, and the measure must come recommended by authorities at home, for here it has been weighed and found wanting.—*Idem.*

A FIGHT AT THE RIFLE PITS.

On Tuesday evening (April 24), soon after dusk, a heavy fusillade began on our left between the French and the Russians, which never ceased till dawn. It seemed as if a pitched battle were going on; and the volume of sound, the incessant heavy rolls of musket and Minié, recalled the contests of Inkerman and the Alma. It is scarcely known in camp what all the firing was about; but the rumour is that an enormous force of Russians threw themselves suddenly on the advanced portion of the works on the left, and were repulsed by our gallant allies, who rushed after them into the very outworks of the Flagstaff Bastion, and seized on the Russian rifle pits, where they maintained a desperate conflict for several hours, but were finally forced to retire, as the whole force of the Russians opposite our left was brought to bear upon them. The loss on both sides must have been very heavy.—*Times Correspondent.*

DESPATCHES FROM LORD RAGLAN.

The first of the ensuing despatches, dated, as will be seen, only the day before yesterday, was published by Lord Panmure yesterday evening:—

Sebastopol, 10th May, 1855.

The Russians made a sortie with a large body of troops on our right, advanced trench this morning, but were driven back immediately. A second and similar attempt shared the same fate.

Nothing could be better than the conduct of the troops who took part in the affair.

The loss of the enemy was serious.

Before Sebastopol, April 24, 1855.

My Lord—Nothing material has occurred since I made my report to your lordship on the 21st instant.

The Russian rifle pit immediately in front of that which was taken on the night of the 19th, was destroyed by a party of volunteers on the morning of the 21st instant. These were headed by Lieutenant and Adjutant Walker, of the 30th regiment, who is stated to be an excellent officer, and to have conducted himself on the occasion in the most spirited manner.

The pit was found to be empty, and being useless, was immediately levelled and filled in. The enemy did not interrupt the work.

I enclose the list of casualties, which, I regret to say, is heavy. The nearer we approach the place, the more loss is to be apprehended. Hitherto it has been less than might have been expected.—I have, &c.,

RAGLAN.

The Lord Panmure, &c., &c.

Casualties.—1 sergeant, 6 rank and file, killed; 1 officer, 2 sergeants, 39 rank and file, wounded. Naval Brigade: 2 wounded, 4 contused.

WAR MISCELLANEA.

DISTRESSING DEATH OF DR. GAVIN.—Intelligence has been received of the melancholy death of Dr. Hector Gavin, at Balaklava, one of three sanitary commis-

sioners sent out by Lord Panmure to see what could be done to improve the condition of the hospitals at Scutari and Smyrna, and the camp before Sebastopol. The circumstances attending the death of Dr. Gavin are of a peculiarly painful character. He had been at Balaklava about a month, and resided in the same hut as his brother, a veterinary surgeon. On the night of the 20th ult., the brother, it is reported, was playing with his revolver: by some accident it exploded, and the ball struck Dr. Gavin, entering at the groin and lodging in the back. The unfortunate gentleman lingered in great agony for three hours, and expired. In a letter from Balaklava, written by Mr. Newlands, and published in the *Liverpool Journal*, it is said:—"The person most to be pitied is poor William Gavin, who is really out of his reason. He adored his brother the doctor, who, I should state, made a deposition, stating the facts to be, that he offered to exchange pistols with his brother, and handed him one without telling him it was loaded, when the poor fellow pulled the trigger, and the ball killed his brother. That, I fear, is the result."

A CONTRAST.—The name of the head engineer at Sebastopol is Todleben. He is thirty-two years of age. His parents are poor shopkeepers in Riga. When the siege commenced, Prince Menschikoff, it is said, asked the then head engineer how long it would take to put the place into a state of defence. He answered, "Two months." A young captain, named Todleben, stepped forward and said he would undertake to do it, if he had as many men as he required, in two weeks. He did it in twelve days, and was made colonel. Since that time, he has had the direction of everything in the way of building batteries, defences, &c. The other day, the Grand Dukes called upon his wife, who is residing in St. Petersburg, to congratulate her upon her husband's promotion; for he is now General and Aide-de-Camp to the Emperor. Is anything more wanted to explain the painful discrepancy between what has been done by the Russians and by the Allies? The former will be bound by no ties of seniority or class: they take the man that will do his work the best, and they get it the best done.—*Times.*

SIR CHARLES TREVELYAN has published a correspondence between himself and Mr. S. Blackwood, of the transport service, now in the Crimea, with reference to a story which has recently been in circulation, and which sets forth that Mr. Blackwood was obliged to buy from his own funds some mules that had been brought to Balaklava on speculation, in order by carrying food to the camp to save his division from starvation. The story also asserted that the authorities refused to make this purchase at the time, in order that by holding back they might beat down the price; and that they afterwards refused to reimburse Mr. Blackwood. Sir Charles, having written to Mr. Blackwood, has received an answer contradicting the story.

A NEW SIEGE TRAIN FOR THE CRIMEA.—Immediately upon receipt of news from the Crimea, that the fire before Sebastopol was suspended, the French Government sent orders to Marseilles for the embarkation of a new siege train, consisting of nearly 300 heavy guns.

RUSSO-FINNISH LOAN.—The *Post Ampt Gazette* contains a letter from Helsingfors, which states that an official notice has been published there, dated April 4, announcing that a new loan of 650,000 silver roubles is to be contracted at 4 per cent., on the account of the Treasury of Finland to meet the expenses of the war.

THE CAZAR has rewarded General Baron Osten-Sacken's merits, as the defender first of Odessa, and next of Sebastopol, by raising him to the dignity of a Count.

ODESSA.—A correspondent of the *Daily News* says that the citizens of Odessa, in dread of a bombardment, have mostly shut up their houses and retired to the interior of the country, taking with them their families and the most valuable part of their movable property. Business is suspended; and the merchants, who do not evince any enthusiasm for the Emperor, are far from being pleased with the war. The hospitals are overfilled with sick and wounded. New fortifications have been erected since the bombardment a year ago; and the Deschitschi Battery is armed with the guns of the unfortunate Tiger, one of which, however, burst while exercising the artillery recruits.

A RUSSIAN ACCOUNT OF THE BATTLE OF INKERMANN, or an account professing to be Russian, though it does not come with any authority, has been published at Berlin. The writer gives great credit to the English heroism on that memorable occasion; but says that our estimate of the number of men opposed to us is ludicrously exaggerated. The actual number, according to this writer, was no more than 29,700, instead of 80,000, as stated by us at the time. This mistake is attributed to the fog which prevailed, and which has the effect of magnifying and confusing objects.

AFFECTING INCIDENT.—A seaman of the fleet before Sebastopol, whose family lives at Polperro, in this county, was ordered on shore for the purpose of assisting in burying the slain who fell in a late attack of the Russians on the British batteries; and almost the first person he met with on landing was one of his brothers, of whose presence in the fleet he was not before informed, and who had been severely wounded in the late engagement. From him he learnt that his two other brothers were all

serving in the Naval Brigade on shore; and with him he remained until he saw him expire. He then proceeded on the duty for which he had landed, and soon discovered the bodies of his other brothers, who had been killed in the battle. His feelings may be imagined, as he assisted in laying these three brothers side by side in one grave.—*Cornwall Gazette.*

THE HOSPITALS AT SCUTARI AND THE CRIMEA.—The Commissioners appointed to inquire into the state of the British military hospitals at Scutari and the Crimea have published a voluminous report, which, together with the appendix, ranges over nearly 300 parliamentary folio pages. It concludes with a long string of recommendations for the better government of the hospitals. Increased pay for the orderlies; the employment of soldiers as hospital attendants; an augmentation in the number of surgeons, and their exemption from other duties; a relaxation in the work of the purveyors; and improved sanitary arrangements in the buildings themselves, are among the chief suggestions.

FRENCH REINFORCEMENTS.—General Cambronne, in addressing his troops on the 26th ult., said that in about a fortnight from that time 60,000 more comrades would have arrived in the Crimea, when active operations might be expected on all sides. He observed (says the *Daily News* correspondent)—"If we knock at the door and get no answer, we tap at the window: if we can't get admission by the one, we contrive to get in by the other."

THE FINE ARTS BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.—Mr. Fenton, the celebrated photographer, and his assistant have been actively employed in front of late. His duties in the British Museum will compel him to leave the Crimea in about three weeks; but such have been his zeal and energy, in spite of winter weather and occasionally of Russian missiles, that he will carry with him about eight hundred views of Sebastopol and its vicinity. They will no doubt be highly prized in England for their accuracy and beauty. The plates are of large size, and in some of them every window of the larger buildings in the town can be counted. Among these interesting will be a panoramic sun-picture of the town and its fortifications, with the distant hills, taken from the old Russian redoubt, or, as it has been called since General Sir George Cathcart was buried there, "Cathcart's Hill," in front of the Fourth Division.—*Daily News Correspondent.*

CAPTAIN CHRISTIE, owing to mental anxiety, has become dangerously ill. His trial has therefore been postponed indefinitely.

LORD STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE, accompanied by Lady Stratford and their daughters, and by General Vivian, paid a visit to Lord Raglan on the 26th of April. The object of the ambassador's visit is a secret.

THE MEDALS AND CLASPS.—Great dissatisfaction has been felt by some of the regiments before Sebastopol at the way in which these rewards have been distributed, many having received them who were not at all engaged in the different actions for which they are accorded. With respect to the Inkerman clasp, it is asserted that the Naval Brigade will not receive it; which, if true, is considered very unjust, as the sailors were concerned in the battle.

THE FRENCH BALTIC EXPEDITION, under the command of Rear-Admiral Pannetier, has sailed from Cherbourg.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCES.

The Parliamentary papers relating to the negotiations at Vienna on the Eastern Question have been laid before Parliament. They consist of fourteen papers—namely, the Memorandum communicated by the Plenipotentiaries of Austria, France, and Great Britain, to Prince Gortschakoff on the 28th of December, 1854, and thirteen Protocols, recording as many Conferences, from the 15th of March to the 26th of April. The Plenipotentiaries were—for Austria, Count de Buol-Schauenstein and Baron de Prokesch-Osten; for France, M. Drouyn de Lhuys and Baron de Bourqueney; for Great Britain, Lord John Russell and the Earl of Westmoreland; for Russia, Prince Gortschakoff and M. de Tilioff; for Turkey, Ali Pasha and Aariff Effendi.

On the 9th of April, the Conference was joined by M. Drouyn de Lhuys for France, and Ali Pasha for Turkey. Lord John Russell departed before the last of the Conferences.

The Memorandum put the Four Points in a more developed and more precise form than they had yet assumed. They were also summed up with great clearness, and with the approval of the other Plenipotentiaries, by Count Buol, thus:—

"1. The protectorate exercised by Russia over Moldavia and Wallachia shall cease, and the privileges conferred by the Sultans on those Principalities, as well as on Servia, shall henceforward be placed under the collective guarantee of the contracting Powers.

"2. The freedom of the navigation of the Danube shall be completely secured by effectual means, and under the control of a permanent syndical authority.

"3. The Treaty of July 13, 1841, shall be revised, with the double object of connecting more completely the existence of the Ottoman Empire with the European

equilibrium, and of putting an end to the preponderance of Russia in the Black Sea.

"4. Russia abandons the principle of covering with an official protectorate the Christian subjects of the Sultan of the Oriental ritual; but the Christian Powers will lead each other their mutual assistance, in order to obtain from the initiative of the Ottoman Government the confirmation and the observance of the religious rights of the Christian communities subject to the Porte, without distinction of ritual."

When the other Plenipotentiaries expressed their consent to this statement of the bases, Prince Gortschakoff also expressed his agreement in very emphatic terms. He said:—

"We are here as serious men, met together to work on a serious matter, the most arduous which has occurred in our times; and we must all heartily endeavour to avoid generalities, in order to arrive at a practical application of the principles which we have adopted, and consequently to enter without further delay upon the development of the details of each question."

The First Point occupied the Conferences on the 17th and 19th of March, when there was a general agreement as to the details by which the point was to be carried out, and the Russian Plenipotentiaries distinguished themselves by standing up for the local privileges and immunities of the inhabitants of the Provinces.

The Second Point—the navigation of the Danube—occupied the Conferences of the 21st and 23rd of March, and met also with general agreement, but some verbal contest; the Russian Plenipotentiaries distinguishing themselves by professions of desiring the unimpeded navigation of the river.

At the Conference on the 26th of March, there was some discussion on the order of proceeding, and it was resolved that the initiative of proposing detailed arrangements on the Third Point should be left to Russia. In the meanwhile, there was some talk of proceeding on the Fourth Point. To this Fourth Point, Prince Gortschakoff said he attached no particular political idea; but at this and subsequent Conferences he showed a disposition to proceed with its discussion. On the Third Point, he took the proposal for the initiative *ad referendum*, awaiting instructions from his own Court. These instructions arrived in time for the Tenth Conference, held on April 17th. On that occasion—

"Prince Gortschakoff said that his Court, though fully appreciating the reasons which had prompted the members of the Conference to surrender to the Cabinet of St. Petersburg the initiative of the proposals respecting the development of the Third Point, did not feel it incumbent on itself to take advantage of the initiative which had been offered to it; that, at the same time, it had authorised its Plenipotentiaries, in conformity with the declaration made at the meeting of the 17th of January last, to enter most gravely, and with the sincere desire of arriving at an agreement, on the examination of the measures which should be proposed, provided they were not of a nature to infringe on the rights of sovereignty of the Emperor of Russia in his own territory; that, for his part, he agreed with the form in which Lord John Russell had stated the question, when he said, in the Conference of the 25th of March, that the best and only admissible conditions of peace would be those which, whilst consistent with the honour of Russia, should at the same time suffice for the security of Europe, and for preventing the recurrence of the existing complications."

"M. Drouyn de Lhuys expressed his deep regret at seeing, after a delay of eighteen days, the initiative which had been surrendered to Russia at a Conference at which he had not assisted, again thrown upon the originators of the proposal. His regrets were the more sincere as the Allies, having expected a precisely opposite result, were not prepared to draw up their proposals immediately. He thought, therefore, that the Allies should at once meet to consult together on this subject. He felt bound, considering the importance of the resolution made by Prince Gortschakoff, to demand further explanations respecting the meaning which that Minister attached to it. He put the question, whether Russia would consider her rights of sovereignty infringed if she deprived herself of the liberty of building an unlimited number of ships of war in the Black Sea."

"Prince Gortschakoff replied, that Russia would not consent to the strength of her navy being restricted to any fixed number, either by treaty or in any other manner."

Ali Pacha expressed his opinion that this limitation of the naval forces in the Black Sea was the only mode of solution at once practicable and honourable to all parties.

"Baron de Prokesch asserted that, as the Allied Powers had consulted on the four bases of negotiation, nothing could be more logical than that they should also consult on the application of them."

"Count Buol shared in the regret expressed by the Plenipotentiaries of France and Great Britain that the answer of the Cabinet of St. Petersburg was not of a nature to serve as a point of departure for further deliberations. He could have wished that the Imperial

Court of Russia had not only appreciated the feelings which had prompted the offer of the initiative, but had been equally struck with the facilities which the acceptance of this offer would have opened for the success of its negotiations."

At the subsequent conference, Ali Pacha was invited to explain himself on the point of introducing Turkey into the European equilibrium. He said that he thought this might be effected by a declaration conceived in the following terms:—

"The contracting Powers, wishing to manifest the importance which they attach to the participation of the Ottoman Empire in the advantages of the system established by public law between the different European States, declare that they consider that empire as forming, henceforward, an integral part of that system, and mutually undertake to respect its territorial integrity and independence as an essential condition of the general equilibrium."

"The Plenipotentiaries of France and Great Britain give their entire adhesion to the principle established by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sublime Porte."

"The Plenipotentiaries of Russia also concur in it. In explaining their idea they add, that they do not intend thereby to pledge their Court to a territorial guarantee."

At this Conference, M. de Titoff suggested that Russia should be permitted to treat upon this point separately and directly with Turkey. The other Plenipotentiaries objected; and Prince Gortschakoff sneered at the independent position in which Turkey now exhibited herself.

At this, and at the subsequent Conference on 21st of April, the Plenipotentiaries proceeded with the discussion of the draft proposed for the settlement of the Third Point by the Allied Powers; and, on the 21st, Prince Gortschakoff read a memorandum and a draft proposed by Russia. The memorandum consisted chiefly of an argument that other powers might assail Russia (at the next Conference, Prince Gortschakoff alluded to Tunis and Aden as instances)—and that in former times Russia, at the invitation of the Porte, had actually assisted Turkey. The Russian draft proposed that the Dardanelles should be opened to the war ships of all nations, unless Russia pleased to close them exceptionally. At this Conference, Baron Prokesch distinguished himself by objecting to the Russian views. The protocol closes thus:—

"Count Buol does not consider the different modes of solution as exhausted, and considers it especially the task of Austria to look for means of accommodation. He hopes, therefore, that the Conferences will meet again as soon as any of its members shall have any new propositions to make."

"Lord John Russell, in doing full justice to the conciliatory spirit of the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, declares, as regards himself, that his instructions are exhausted."

"M. Drouyn de Lhuys made the same declaration, adding that he is under the necessity of taking the orders of the Emperor, his master, and he reserves to himself to make an eventual communication thereon to the representative of France at Vienna."

The proposed draft of the Allies on the Third Point ran thus:—

"Art. I. The high contracting parties wishing that the Sublime Porte should participate in the advantages of the system established by public law between the different States of Europe, engage themselves severally to respect the independence and territorial integrity of the Ottoman Empire, guarantee together the strict observance of this engagement, and will, in consequence, consider every act or event which should be of a nature to infringe on it as a question of European interest."

"Art. 2. If a misunderstanding should arise between the Porte and one of the contracting parties, these two States, before having recourse to the employment of force, should place the other Powers in a position to anticipate this extreme course by pacific means."

"Art. 3. His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias and his Highness the Sultan, wishing reciprocally to give a proof of their confidence, and to anticipate the misgivings which might arise from the excessive development of their naval forces in the Euxine, engage respectively not to have in that sea more than four ships, four frigates, with a proportionate number of light vessels and of unarmed vessels exclusively adapted to the transport of troops."

"Art. 4. The rule of the closing of the Straits of the Bosphorus and of the Dardanelles, laid down by the treaty of July 13, 1841, shall remain in force, with the exceptions specified in the following articles:—

"Art. 5. Each of the contracting Powers who have not an establishment in the Black Sea shall be authorised by a firman of his Highness, on notifying it five days beforehand, to bring into that sea a number of vessels equal to half the naval forces which each of the two Powers bordering on the sea shall maintain there in conformity with Article 2."

"Art. 6. At no time shall ships of war of foreign nations, with the exception of light vessels belonging to the Embassies admitted heretofore, be able to anchor at

the Golden Horn, and in time of peace the number of vessels of the line of the contracting Powers who have no establishment in the Black Sea shall not be allowed to be more than four at the same time before Constantinople, in their passage from the Dardanelles to the Black Sea, and from the Black Sea to the Dardanelles."

"Art. 7. In case (which God forbid!) the Sultan should be menaced by an aggression, he reserves to himself the right to open the passages to all the maritime forces of his allies."

"Art. 8. The two Powers bordering on the Black Sea, in order to testify to the other high contracting parties their desire to maintain with them the most friendly relations, engage to admit in all the ports situate in the Black Sea the consuls whom the latter may consider it useful to establish there."

"Art. 9. His Majesty the Emperor of All the Russias and his Highness the Sultan, wishing to give a proof of the generous sentiments with which they are animated, promise a full and entire amnesty to all inhabitants and officers of the Provinces which have been the theatre of war. None of them shall be molested or prosecuted for his opinions, for his acts, or for the conduct he may have held during the war, or during the temporary occupation of the Provinces by the respective troops of the belligerent parties. The inhabitants of the Islands of Aland are admitted to the benefit of this provision."

"Art. 10. His Majesty the King of Sardinia is comprised in the present peace. Commercial and other relations are re-established between that kingdom and the Empire of All the Russias, on the same footing as they were before the declaration of war."

The Russian draft was as follows:—

"Art. . The high contracting Courts being desirous of putting an end to the anxieties which may arise from the inequality of the naval forces of the two bordering Powers in the basin of the Black Sea, his Highness the Sultan, by a spontaneous act of his sovereign will, consents to modify the rule of the closing of the Straits of the Dardanelles and of the Bosphorus, as provided for by the treaty of the 1st (13th) July, 1841, and to grant henceforth, without distinction, to the flags of war of all nations, the free passage through these Straits to proceed from the Archipelago into the Black Sea, and *vice versa*."

"Art. . The arrangements for regulating the passage of ships of war through these Straits, and laying down the positions and the duration of the anchorages, shall form the subject of a special regulation, which the Sublime Porte shall promulgate, according as it may think necessary for its security."

"Art. . The regulation mentioned in the preceding article shall be identical for the flags of war of all nations in a state of peace with the Sublime Porte, who, called upon to enjoy it on a footing of perfect equality, shall engage scrupulously to observe it."

"Art. . His Highness the Sultan, however, reserves to himself, with a view to particular circumstances, to introduce into the provisions of that regulation, in favour of any flag he pleases, exceptional and temporary modifications, destined to extend the privileges for a limited time."

"Art. . In case (which God forbid!) the Sublime Porte should herself be in a state of war, or should see her security compromised by hostilities which might break out between other Powers, his Highness the Sultan reserves to himself the power to suspend the free passage through the Straits, either entirely or partially, until the cessation of the circumstances which may have required such a measure."

At the Thirteenth Conference, Prince Gortschakoff proposed the subjoined plan, to the second part of which Baron Prokesch decidedly objected, while Count Buol saw in it elements, not for settlement, but for discussion. The Thirteenth Conference closes thus:—

"At the moment of closing the meeting Prince Gortschakoff declares that the Plenipotentiaries of Russia have amply redeemed their word by proposing several plans of solution."

The annexed is the latest Russian proposal:—

"Art. 1. The principle of the closing of the Straits of the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles in time of peace, sanctioned by the ancient legislation of the Sublime Porte, and by the treaty of July 1st (13th), 1841, remains in full force."

"Art. 2. His Highness the Sultan reserves to himself the power to open, by way of temporary exception, the Straits of the Dardanelles and of the Bosphorus to the fleets of foreign Powers which the Sublime Porte should think it necessary to summon, whenever she should consider her security menaced."

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM.

MEETING IN THE CITY.

A MEETING of the merchants and traders of the metropolis was held last Saturday at the London Tavern. The object of the meeting was to organise an association for promoting a thorough reform in the various departments of the State; and, with this end in view, a large number of gentlemen connected with the trade and commerce of the City, and professing

various forms of political opinion, together with several members of Parliament, co-operated with the utmost harmony. The large room—estimated to contain 1500 persons—was so crowded by twelve o'clock, that a large body who were unable to obtain admission betook themselves to the Guildhall, the use of which was granted by the Lord Mayor, and there formed a separate meeting.

At the London Tavern, Mr. Samuel Morley was voted to the chair, and opened the proceedings by observing that it was nothing but a high sense of public duty that made the merchants and traders of London leave their more legitimate sphere, the counting-house, to engage in the public discussion of public affairs. He adverted to an opinion expressed in the last number of the *Economist*, to the effect that this movement is a mere trading affair—an opinion which it was strange to find in a paper conducted by a gentleman who has raised himself to his present position by those very qualifications which they desired to see more largely introduced into the Government. That journal had said that legislative and governmental duties require different talents from those which command success in the counting-house; but, in answer to this, Mr. Morley observed that it is mainly to the intelligence and industry of her commercial and trading classes that England is indebted for her greatness. Again, they had been accused of attacking the aristocracy; but that was not precisely the fact. The English people were attached to their aristocracy; but he warned that favoured class not to force the people to scrutinize too closely how they have been plundered and bamboozled. The aristocracy have as much right to share in the government of the country as any other class; but they do not possess, as some people seem to think, a divine right to govern. Under the present state of things, the heads of departments, whenever they chance not to have their intelligent underlings at hand, exhibit an amount of crass ignorance, incompetence, and superciliousness, about any given subject, which are actually eating into the heart of the country. Mr. Morley then alluded to the fact of government appointments being almost invariably given to persons having political influence; and asked if it would not be gratifying to the public to see now and then a Rowland Hill made Postmaster-General. It had been calculated that 220 members of the House of Commons, or about one-third, are related to the nobility; the constituencies should look to this. Mr. Morley concluded his speech by severely commenting on the levity exhibited by Lord Palmerston under circumstances that had broken the hearts of thousands.

Mr. J. J. Travers proposed the following resolution:—

"That the disasters to which the country has been subjected in the conduct of the present war are attributable to the inefficient and practically irresponsible management of the various departments of the State, and urgently demand a thorough change in the administrative system."

He observed that Lord John Russell had stated that he thought it a defect in our administrative system that the Minister has no time to attend to any great general measure; and the late Sir Robert Peel more than once said he had declined to add to the responsibility of the Government, because the Government did everything badly; and oftentimes that great man referred to the torpid action of the Government. Sir James Graham had expressed similar sentiments, and Sir Charles Trevelyan had also testified to the impossibility of carrying on the public business in an honest and proper manner as long as the House of Commons remains as it is. The real fault of the present system attaches to the people themselves, who tolerate its continuance. Facts convince the advocates of that movement that in every constituency of the country there is a body of voters on the register who always remain unpelled, and who have it in their power, if they choose to exert themselves at the elections, to make even the present representation of the people available for immediate purposes; and it is therefore the duty of the City of London, as the centre and metropolis of the country's activity and intelligence, to endeavour to rouse the middle classes to a due sense of their responsibilities and their danger at the present crisis.

Mr. J. P. Gassiot seconded the resolution, and, as an instance of the mismanagement of Government, mentioned that, to his own knowledge, an offer of 10,000 Spanish guerrillas had been made to the late War Minister, though the Duke of Newcastle, in his evidence before the Sebastopol Committee, said that he had never heard of any such offer. A Mr. Manby, an English gentleman living in Paris, had addressed Mr. Roberts, the Under Secretary for the War Department, on this subject, as long ago as the close of last December; but he was kept in suspense until the commencement of March, when Mr. Roberts said in a letter to Mr. Manby that, the offer having been made in a private communication, the

document could not be found, and had even passed from Mr. Roberts's memory. Mr. Gassiot contrasted the tardiness of Government with the energy exhibited by Messrs. Peto and Co., who completed their contract for making a railroad in the Crimea within a month of the given time; and observed that our Ministers always contrive to put men into the wrong places—Sir William Molesworth, for instance, who has devoted his whole life to the consideration of colonial affairs, being put into the Woods and Forests, which he has signally mismanaged, and Mr. Bernal Osborne being made Secretary to the Admiralty, an office of which he knows nothing.

Mr. J. D. Powles supported the resolution, and, remarking that governments are sometimes limited in their choice of colleagues by the necessity of always choosing a man who has got, or who can obtain, a place in Parliament, suggested that Ministers should have seats in the legislature *ex officio*.

The resolution was about to be put, when a Mr. Walker, speaking from the gallery, asked permission to move an amendment, as he thought the terms of the resolution were not sufficiently strong. To this, the Chairman objected; and Mr. Walker tore up his amendment. He then obtained leave to speak, and proceeded to argue in favour of rousing the oppressed nationalities of Poland, Hungary, &c.; but, the feeling of the meeting being loudly expressed against him, and a show of hands being equally opposed to his proceeding, he resumed his seat.

Mr. W. S. Lindsay, M.P., moved the following resolution:—

"That the true remedy for the system of maladministration, which has caused so lamentable a sacrifice of labour, money, and human life, is to be sought in the introduction of enlarged experience and practical ability into the service of the State; that the exclusion from office of those who possess in a high degree the practical qualities necessary for the direction of affairs in a great commercial country is a reflexion upon its intelligence and a betrayal of its interests; that while we disclaim every desire of excluding the aristocratic classes from participating in the councils of the Crown, we feel it our duty to protest against the pretensions of any section of the community to monopolise the functions of administration."

Mr. Lindsay mentioned in his speech that he had proposed to Sir James Graham, while the latter was at the Admiralty, to put the books in order, but that Sir James had taken no further notice of his offer than to thank him for it. He thus mapped out the scheme which the present association proposes to carry out.

"Each member of the Committee has some correspondent or other in every borough; and these persons, if they approve the resolutions, will be invited to call public meetings in their respective towns to discuss them, and then, at those meetings, sub-committees, acting in concert with the central body, can be formed, so that the originators of this movement will speedily have their representatives in every Parliamentary borough in the kingdom. (Cheers.) Then, whenever they see any such job as the appointment of the Hon. Mr. Howard to the Woods and Forests, in defiance of the recommendation of what was termed 'Drummond's Committee,' and notwithstanding that Lord Palmerston had had offered to him the services of the ablest agriculturist of the age for the office—a motion condemning the proceeding will be made in the House of Commons, and the sub-committees throughout the country will be applied to, to send up petitions from their different boroughs protesting against the perpetration of such a scandal; and also will be requested to write to their own members urgently calling on them to vote according to their consciences, and in opposition to the Ministerial design. When such a machinery as that is completely organised and ready for action throughout the country, it will be seen whether my Lord Palmerston will try his hand again at any more of these jobs." (Cheers.)

Mr. S. Baker, in seconding the resolution, observed that, according to the evidence of that honest old sailor, Sir Thomas Hastings, two of the government officials—one in the discharge of his duty, but the other entirely stepping out of it—had gone into the market and bid against each other. (Laughter.) Now, if a mercantile man found that his shipping clerk had been bidding in the market against his buying clerk, would he not eject him without ceremony—in fact, summarily kick him down stairs, as it were? If he did not, he would run a very good chance of soon getting into the wrong side of the *Gazette*. Mr. Baker having in the course of his speech alluded to Mr. Layard, three cheers were given for that gentleman with great enthusiasm.

Mr. F. Bennoch dwelt upon the want of fitness evinced in the distribution of offices among political men, and denounced the system of purchase in the army.

Mr. Johnstone Neale, in supporting the resolution, observed that, in fairness to both sides, it should be

known that Lord Palmerston had tendered office to merchants of the City, but that those merchants had told him it would be impossible for them to give up emoluments of 5000*l.*, or 7000*l.*, a year to join a Government which might not last. He added—

"They had already been told the number of members connected with the peerage now in the House of Commons; and he would add the information which he obtained from *Dod*, that there are twenty-three places which return members under the influence of great families. They are Chester, Chichester, Cirencester, Dudley, Dungarvan, Enniskillen, Helstone, Lancaster, Malmesbury, Malton, Marlborough, Peterborough, Rye, Richmond, Ripon, Rye, Shaftesbury, Sandwich, Tavistock, Thetford, Warwick, Wilton, and Youghal. There are three or four other places under similar influence. He found also that the House of Commons contains four marquises, eight earls, seventeen viscounts, thirty-one lords, fifty honourables, and thirty baronets. He asked Mr. Lindsay whether, if he were made Prime Minister to-morrow, he could do otherwise than listen to the demands of men by whose votes alone he would be able to retain office? This was the whole question, and it must now be made plain to the aristocracy that the present system has gone to its fullest extent and must be altered."

In the course of this speech also, three cheers were given for Mr. Layard.

Mr. W. Tite enlarged upon the general mismanagement of the Government, and echoed the opinions of Messrs. Gassiot and Bennoch with respect to the want of the right men in the right places.

After a few words from Mr. Oliveira, M.P., who had just returned from the meeting at the Guildhall, over which he presided, the resolution was put, and carried *unanimously*.

The Chairman then announced, as a proof of the earnest and sincere character of the movement, that twenty-five gentlemen in the room had already put down their names for a subscription of 100*l.* each. The announcement was received with loud cheering; and the meeting separated, after three cheers for the Queen, three for the Emperor of the French, and three for the independent members of Parliament.

The proceedings at the Guildhall were similar to the foregoing; but the following rider was added to the first resolution:—"That this meeting considers a large extension of the franchise necessary to effect the improvements required."—The meeting broke up after three cheers for Mr. Layard.

DERBY.

The meeting at Derby to which we alluded last week, took place on Thursday evening in the Town Hall. Resolutions demanding a speedy reform of the administrative departments were unanimously carried; and a petition to the House of Commons, embodying their spirit, was adopted. The Rev. Mr. Griffiths, one of the speakers, denounced the heartless frivolity of Lord Palmerston, and spoke enthusiastically in favour of Mr. Layard. The meeting concluded by passing with acclamation a resolution in favour of restoring the nationalities of Poland and Hungary.

MARYLEBONE.

A meeting of the inhabitants of Marylebone has been convened for Monday week, the 21st inst.

BIRMINGHAM.

A requisition to the Mayor of Birmingham is a course of signature, requesting his worship to call a town's meeting, for the purpose of considering the propriety of co-operating with the metropolitan movement in furtherance of Administrative Reform. Already the requisition is numerously and respectably signed.

MANCHESTER.

An early public meeting is to be called at Manchester on this subject.

TRIAL AND CONDEMNATION OF PIANORI.
GIOVANNI PIANORI was on Monday condemned to the death of a parricide for his attempt upon the life of the French Emperor. The indictment thus sets forth his antecedents:—

"Giovanni Pianori, who has procured a passport in the name of Liverani, was born in one of the Roman provinces, but which in particular he refuses to disclose. He is a bachelor, and a shoemaker by trade. In 1849, according to his own admission, he (as a volunteer soldier, as he styles himself) formed part of the Roman insurrectional army under the orders of one of the revolutionary chiefs who then commanded it, but who, he alleges, was unknown to him. About this time he was obliged to leave the Roman States, and he, with several others, took refuge in Piedmont, where he remained several years, and up to the end of 1853 or the beginning of 1854. He afterwards went to Marseille, where he stayed some months, under the name of Liverani, working at his trade for sailors—at least so he says. Subsequently, he is found running through various towns in France, Lyons, Châlons, and then Paris, where he took out a 'permit of residence' in the

name of Liverani. It does not appear that he had any very certain means of subsistence by his labour. He had an introduction to a master shoemaker in Paris, named Mallet, who agreed to give him work. After a sojourn of some months in Paris, he suddenly started for London, where he says he stayed nearly three months. What was his motive for leaving France? He has not stated any; but it may be affirmed with certainty that it was not for want of work that he went to another country, since he never turned to good account the work that was offered him in Paris. However this may be, he arrived in London in the month of December, 1854, and there all at once he found means to earn 50s. a week (that is to say, nearly 65fr.). Such is his declaration; but he says he cannot possibly tell who it was that employed him at these wages, nor the address of his employer, nor even in what part of the town he lived. Pianori then, according to his own statement, earned 65fr. a week, and he further says that he put by, out of that sum, as much as 30fr. a week. Now, since he passed three months in London, he may, if he speaks the truth, have saved as much as 300 francs. This is impossible, or at least improbable. No journeyman shoemaker can earn so much in London, and save so much after paying all expenses. Suddenly, instead of keeping a place where he was so exceedingly well off, he left London on March 26, and returned to Paris. What has he been doing since that period? M. Mallet had turned him away because he did not work well. M. Michelet, at whose house he lodged, No. 40, Boulevard Pigalle, declares that since Pianori's return from England he did not work at all, and appeared to be ruminating on some project which absorbed his mind entirely. It may therefore be stated, that in reality Pianori is only nominally a workman, and that it is not from his labour that this man has for a very long time past derived the means of subsistence.

The following questions were put by the President:—

"After your crime information was sought about you at the Roman Legation, and it was ascertained that your name is not Antonio Liverani, as appeared in your passport, but Giovanni Pianori. The following is the information communicated in the two despatches we have received: the first is dated May 1, and the *Chargé d'Affaires* of France at Rome says, 'Pianori, known by the name of Brizi Guellino, aged 32 years, married, and the father of two children, was arrested for having committed a political assassination.' He escaped from the prison of Servia. He fought in 1849 against the French army. He escaped to Genoa; he afterwards returned to his country, and committed other crimes.' Are you the person described in that note?"—"My name is Giovanni Pianori. Brizi Guellino is an additional name—*supra-nom.*"

"Have you borne that name?"—"Yes, sir."

"Then it is to you the description applies. Here now is the information contained in the second despatch of the 5th of May: 'Positive Information.—Pianori, condemned for 12 years to the galleys for assassination.'—"That is not true."

"You deny the fact; very well. Here is the rest: 'Accused of two acts of incendiarism in February, 1849.' Is that true?"—"No, sir. I only remained six months in prison."

"For what cause?"—"For having taken part in some affairs."

"The despatch adds—'Escaped from the prison of Servia on the 30th of April, 1852; noted as a terrible assassin.'—"That is not true."

The prisoner furthermore denied having been connected with any of the refugees in London, and said it was only on the same day that the thought of the assassination occurred to him. His reason for the act he stated to be the French expedition to Rome, which had brought him and his family to misery. He fully confessed the crime; and the defence was therefore nothing more than an appeal to mercy on the ground of his frank confession and his ill-guided political sentiments. The jury, however, returned a verdict of "Guilty," by a majority. Pianori exhibited great composure from first to last.

With respect to the death of a parricide, it may be stated that, by the 13th Article of the Penal Code, "the parricide shall be led to the place of execution in a shirt, barefoot, and his head covered with a black veil; that he shall be exposed on the scaffold whilst a public officer reads to the people the sentence of condemnation, and that he shall be immediately put to death." It is rumoured that the prisoner declared that, though he did not deny the crime, he would not commit it if it was to be done again.

EARTHQUAKE AT BROUSSA.

The correspondent of the *Times* gives the following interesting account of the late earthquake at Broussa:—

"There is no mistake this time about the destruction of Broussa. The shock which took place on the evening of the 11th has levelled to the ground the greater part of the ancient city, and destroyed some of the finest monuments of Roman, Byzantine, and Mussulman art of which this country can boast. Since the first shock on the 28th

of February, the population had taken precautions in case of a recurrence of the calamity; and it is to these that the small number of casualties is due. Every one who had an open space before his house pitched a tent, where the family passed most of its time, and very often remained during the night. The upper stories of the houses were abandoned, and the household lived in the hall with open doors, so as to be ready for immediate flight whenever the subterranean roar of the earthquake should make itself heard, and the trembling of the furniture denote the approaching destruction. The previous warning, and the fact that the fall of buildings does not take place until the end, and sometimes not till after the cessation, of the vibration, is the reason that out of a population of 70,000 souls not more than 100 have been killed or wounded by a catastrophe which has made half of them houseless and destitute. On the 16th, the full extent of the calamity was known at Constantinople. The great shock of the 11th was only the first of a series almost innumerable. At least forty vibrations were felt during the first night, and not a day has passed since without three or four of more or less severity. Many of these have been attended with the fall of edifices which had been previously shaken, and the chief danger now to be apprehended is, that the shattered walls which line the narrow streets will occasionally be thrown down on the inhabitants, even without a recurrence of the motion. The unhappy population is flying in all directions from the doomed city. On the 17th, the Porte, at the request of Lord Stratford, sent a steamer to Guemlik to bring away the fugitives, who were thronging the little port without food or the means of transport. Mr. Whittall, a merchant of this place, also determined to go with a steamer belonging to him, and bring to Constantinople as many as it would hold. Availing myself of this opportunity, I started for Guemlik the day before yesterday, to judge for myself of the extent of the calamity. On arriving at the summit of the line of hills which overlooks the glorious plain of Broussa, we could judge of the force of the convulsion. From that point, there was not a bridge, a wall, or a house, which had not more or less suffered. The road was thronged with fugitives—velled Turkish women, carrying with them all their goods on the back of a miserable horse, to obtain which they had probably parted with a number of necessities. The very poor, mostly Armenians and Jews, were on foot, bending under the weight of counterpanes and kettles, and dragging after them their weeping and footsore children, who would be a couple of days in making the weary journey of twenty miles through the bush and quagmire before they arrived at Guemlik. The most fortunate were the peasantry, who lived at a distance from the narrow lanes and crumbling mosques. Most of these had their cottages destroyed; but they had quietly erected rude tents among the mulberry trees, and were living as happily as if nothing had occurred. On approaching the city, the results of the convulsion were visible on every side. The village of Tchepelik was in ruins, the houses seeming as if they had been crushed in by the fall of some enormous weight on their roofs. At last Broussa was plainly visible, its snowy mosques and dark red houses standing out against the green sides of Olympus, which towered up above with its crown of snow. Perhaps no more romantic spot can be found in the world than this, which has been the site of an imperial city for more than two thousand years. The rapid torrent which passes through the midst of the city and across the plain is crossed by massive stone bridges, two of which date from Roman times. The most solid of these structures, a work of the early Caesars, is now shattered and impassable. Huge masses of masonry have been hurled down into the stream beneath, and the solid arch is cleft in two. The greatest antiquarian loss which the place has suffered, is, however, in the demolition of the great mosque, formerly the Convent of the Virgin, an edifice erected shortly after the age of Justinian, and second to St. Sophia alone for vastness and beauty. The lofty dome is crushed; the mosaic work, fresh and beautiful as if not ten years old, is scattered over the pavement; the minarets—of course a Mussulman addition—are broken short off at a third of their height from the ground; and the structure, which lately was filled with worshippers, is now deserted by all but the Turkish guard which is placed at the gate to prevent the depredations which often follow a general calamity. The tomb of Sultan Orchan, son of Othman, is also crushed. Whole quarters of the town are levelled with the ground, not a house remaining. Amid the ruins miserable women may be seen together tending their wounded relations, who lie under the shelter of a bit of carpet fastened to three upright posts, or of a few boards placed slantingly against some tottering wall. The Jews have suffered greatly. The citadel stands on the slope of the hill; beneath and around it cluster the dwellings of this peaceful and suffering race. At the moment of the shock masses of wall were hurled down upon the small tenements below, and even portions of the solid rock came rolling down the mountain-side like avalanches, and crushed everything in their way. The Jews, with their lofty head-dresses, were to be seen sitting amid their fallen walls, destitute and desolate. Not even at such a moment does compassion subdue the dark aversion which separates this unhappy race from the people among whom it lives. Who will care for a Jew? The

great want is of food; many of the ovens are destroyed, and bread is in consequence dear. The number of persons thrown out of work by the event is, of course, very large; but, happily, none of the silk factories have been injured; and in a few weeks, should no repetition of the shocks occur, the fugitives will take courage and venture back, work will be resumed, the city will once more rise from its foundations, and nothing but the ruins of a few vast edifices which the present age cannot restore will bear witness of the most fearful catastrophe which has befallen an Eastern city for many hundred years."

OUR CIVILISATION.

GENTLE SMUGGLERS.—At the Thames Police-office, on Monday, Jenn Baptiste Vandenhagen, a Belgian gentleman, and his daughter, an elegantly-dressed young lady, were committed to prison for six months for having smuggled a large quantity of Brussels lace into this country. By this act, they incurred a penalty of 100l. each; and in default of payment were locked up, both sobbing loudly as they were removed.

MURDER AND SUICIDE.—On Saturday, a poor woman, the wife of a tailor, in the neighbourhood of Old St. Pancras-road, drowned her infant child, and afterwards herself, in the water-butt. She had long been at variance with her mother; and on the morning of the tragedy she observed to her husband that the child looked as though it would die. She also made some observation about "the curse of her mother having followed her," and that "it must come." There is no doubt that under the influence of these feelings she committed the acts.

CRUELTY TO A CHILD.—Elizabeth Lambert, the wife of a carrier at Kingsland, was charged at Worship-street, on Tuesday, with ill-using a little boy about two years old, who had been placed under her care by the parish. She had nearly starved the poor creature, and had been in the habit of beating it and throwing it about for some time. At length, a lady living in the neighbourhood, who had been disturbed by the child's screams, interfered, procured the assistance of a policeman, and caused the woman Lambert to be taken into custody. The policeman said the child appeared dull and heavy and half starved for a time, and was shockingly emaciated; but brightened up a little after he went in. The parents of the child, it appears, have deserted it; but the relieving officer of the parish said it should be taken back again to the workhouse in company with another child of whom the prisoner had the care. The woman was remanded for a week.

A RAILWAY POLICE SERGEANT on the Great Northern Railway has been committed for trial for stealing a portmanteau and its contents. It appeared that, owing to the instrumentality of the prisoner, several officers of the company have been lately charged with theft and have lost their situations.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.

(From the Registrar-General's Weekly Return.)

THE present return discovers an increase in the deaths of the week that ended last Saturday on those of the two previous weeks. Having been in these weeks 1087 and 1132, they rose last week to 1185, of which 597 were deaths of males, and 588 of females. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1845-54, the average number of deaths was 990, which, if raised for increase of population by a tenth part for the purpose of comparison, becomes 1089. It appears that nearly 100 deaths occurred last week more than the ordinary rate of mortality would have produced.

The deaths of last week were returned from the five great divisions of London in the following numbers: 192 from the West Districts, 245 from the North, 169 from the Central, 258 from the East, and 321 from the Southern Districts. In the last division, the population and area are considerably greater than in any other, and its contribution to the total mortality is also the greatest. Though the population of the West Districts is rather less than that of the Central, the deaths in the former were more by 23 than in the latter; and while the East Division is rather less populous than the North, the deaths exceeded those of the latter by 13. The corrected averages of deaths for the week are as follow:—In the West Division, 166; North, 213; Central, 184; East, 229; South, 298. Hence it appears that the mortality was above the average in all except the Central Division. Of 38 deaths from scarlatina, four occurred in Woolwich, and three in Plumstead. Five deaths from fever are returned by the Registrar of Christchurch, Southwark. Bronchitis and pneumonia were fatal in 188 cases, which are assigned in equal proportions to the two diseases.

Last week, the births of 845 boys and 779 girls, in all 1624 children, were registered in London. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1845-54, the average number was 1507.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

RESIGNATION OF M. DEQUEN DE LIUYS.

THE chief foreign event of the week is the resignation of the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, which was first known in London on Monday. The cause of this event

which, considering the great faculty of M. de Lhuys, is generally lamented—is to be found in the serious disagreements which have arisen between the minister and the Emperor respecting the conduct of the war. It is said that, during his diplomatic mission to Vienna, M. de Lhuys was induced to accept a less vigorous policy than his instructions justified; and that, as the Emperor is determined not to abate a jot in his demands, the minister was received with coldness on his return, and consequently resigned. M. Drouyn de Lhuys, it is asserted, even went so far as to lead the Austrian Government to suppose that the Emperor would sanction what he had accepted; but in this he was grievously mistaken. The friends of the ex-minister state that the sudden modification of his tone arose from the alarm which he felt, in common with the Austrian Cabinet, at the projected visit of the Emperor to the Crimea; rather than encounter which, they were disposed to accept almost any conditions. There are also rumours of considerable ill-will having existed for a long time between M. Drouyn de Lhuys and M. Thouvenel, the *locum tenens* of the former during his absence at Vienna; but we probably need look no further than the rupture with the chief of the State for an explanation of the retirement.—M. Walewski, the French Ambassador at London, succeeds M. de Lhuys, and M. de Persigny occupies the position of M. Walewski. M. Thouvenel goes to Constantinople as Ambassador.—The late Foreign Minister left Paris on Monday for his country seat at Melun; and on the same day, M. Walewski, who had been summoned by telegraph, left London for Paris.

The Spanish Cortes, by an overwhelming majority, including six of the ministers, have rejected the petition of the coupon-holders. "Spain," said one deputy, "has always religiously and honourably paid her debts." Señor Moyano's speech against the claims produced considerable effect upon the Chamber, especially the part in which he quoted some ludicrous verses from a parody published by a Progressista paper at the time when Llorente brought forward his well-known project for settling the coupon question in connexion with a new loan. Señor Calvo Asensio, one of the secretaries of the Cortes, was the only deputy who stood up manfully in behalf of justice. "For me," said he, "this is a question of national honour, demanding the nomination of a commission with full authority to examine the legitimacy of this debt. Between paying or postponing the payment, and denying it absolutely, there is an immense difference." Besides Señor Asensio, Señores Gaminde, Labrador, Godínez de Paz, and Aveilla voted for the appointment of a committee of investigation. The other 167 deputies present would not even suffer the subject to be examined, and declared the report definitively disapproved.—*Times Spanish Correspondent.*

The Queen of Spain has signed the bill respecting ecclesiastical property with many tears, says the *Constitutionnel*. Her Majesty told her ministers that she signed because they, her advisers, assured her the bill was for the welfare of Spain, but that she was acting against her conscience. The ministers endeavoured to comfort her Majesty by reminding her that she is a constitutional sovereign, and that they alone are responsible. She appeared more cheerful after listening to these observations.

Mr. Perry, Secretary of the American Legation, has formally announced to the court of Madrid that his government accepts the arrangements proposed by the Spanish Cabinet in the affair of the Black Warrior. His note on the subject expresses, in the name of the President of the United States, the most friendly sentiments, and the hope that the conclusion of the affair will draw closer the relations between the two countries. The Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs has intimated in the Cortes that other claims are pending. The Cardinal Archbishop of Toledo has been ordered to return to his diocese.

A letter from Barcelona states that in the course of a violent tempest which burst on the 24th ult. over the valley of Arran, in Catalonia, near the French frontier, some enormous masses of snow fell from the Pyrenees, and completely buried three large villages, named Una, Vaquerque, and Llabe, each containing from 500 to 700 inhabitants. The authorities of the district immediately caused labourers to be employed to remove the snow; and, though the operation was far from complete when the letter left, not fewer than forty-seven dead bodies had been discovered.

The reigning Duke of Saxe Coburg Gotha has arrived in Paris on a visit to the Emperor. His presence there is supposed to be not without political meaning.

The Session of the Prussian Chambers has been closed rather unexpectedly.

The late Ministerial crisis in Sardinia (says the *Times* Turin Correspondent) raised so high the hopes of the reactionary party that they revelled for a moment in the anticipation of a *coup d'état* which should overthrow the Constitution. So firm a hold had this idea taken with the most ultra of the section, that it is said, and on very good authority, they had already distributed their portfolios, the only thing wanting to the accomplishment being the King's command. The explanation generally credited of the terms offered by the Marquis de Villamarina, General Durando, &c., to the bishops, was, that

the present bill should be withdrawn if the bishops would agree to find the 900,000 odd francs required for the poor priests, and that those bishops who are members of the Senate should promise to support, by word and vote, a bill in the sense of Senator Colla's amendment, which says that the civil power has the right of taxing benefices, but not of withdrawing or transferring property. This, with his Majesty's approval, was made the *ultimatum*; and, having been rejected by Monsignor de Callabiana for himself and fellows, the affair ended.

The mortal remains of the Countess Rossi (Madame Soutag) arrived at Dresden on the 29th ult., whence they are to be conveyed into Lusatia, to be deposited in the convent of Marienberg.

A special commission has been instituted at St. Petersburg by the Emperor Alexander to consider all matters relating to the Eastern question. It is composed of the Grand Duke Constantine, M. Nesselrode, Count Orloff, M. Kisselef, Count Bludoff, and Prince Dolgorouki. The war party has a majority in the commission.

To cover the Spanish deficit, an extraordinary impost on the goods of the Church has been resolved on. The resignation of M. Cuesta is accepted.

A holograph will of the late Emperor Nicholas, written in 1844, has been published at St. Petersburg. It concludes with a clause, in which the Emperor begs all those whom he may have unintentionally offended to forgive him, as he forgives all who may have offended him. He expresses his regret that he has not been able to accomplish all the good he could have wished, and begs all his friends to offer up their prayers for the repose of his soul.—There is something more truly Christian in this request for forgiveness than in fifty expeditions in defence of the "orthodox faith."

There was a report at the latter end of last week that the King of Prussia was dead; but it appears that this is false, though he has in fact been seriously ill. He had an attack of fever on Tuesday week, which ceased on the following day, was renewed on the Thursday, and again ceased on Friday night. Has champagne got anything to do with this?

ERUPTION OF MOUNT VESUVIUS.—On the 1st of May, this celebrated volcano began to throw forth fire and smoke. "As evening came on," says the Naples correspondent of the *Daily News*, "the heavens were in a bright glow, and the whole population flocked down to the mole of Santa Lucia to see the spectacle. The form of the mountain was indistinguishable; nothing was to be seen but clouds, smoke, and fire. Up to the very zenith, the sky was covered with large bulbous clouds, black as ink, and fringed with white; underneath, and half-way down the mountain, everything was on fire, whilst right in the centre of it shot up a cone of black smoke. Still lower again, dark clouds covered the base of the mountain, having, too, as their centre-piece and contrast, the river of lava which is running down towards Resina. The scene was rendered still grander by an eclipse of the moon which took place about two hours and a half after midnight."

The *Moniteur* of Sunday contains the report of the commission appointed by the decree of August 5, 1854, to carry out as far as practicable the testamentary dispositions of Napoleon I. The report is presented by M. A. Fould, and concludes—"Thus, four-and-thirty years after the death of the Emperor, his last wishes on behalf of his faithful servants and glorious companions in arms receive their consecration."

Mehemet Ali, brother-in-law of the Sultan, has been recalled from exile against the will of Reschid Pacha. The latter has resigned, and Mehemet Ali, an exile the day before, on account of certain acts of corruption, has been made Grand Vizir in his stead. Fuad Effendi has been appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs. The latter minister is a man of great ability and considerable experience, having been entrusted with several important European missions, including one to St. Petersburg. It was Fuad Effendi who was Minister of Foreign Affairs when Prince Menschikoff first made his appearance at Constantinople in 1853.

A letter from Bucharest of the 23rd in the *Constitutionnel* says:—"The only thing talked of here is an arrest which took place the day before yesterday in open day, in a public garden, by order of the Austrian authorities. M. A. Mano, chef d'escadron of Lancers in the Ottoman army, who was suspected of keeping up a correspondence with an Hungarian emissary, whom the police have been for some time carefully watching, was arrested and is now in prison. He has undergone two interrogatories, the result of which will not be known for some days. Colonel Manoilovitch, who commands the Austrian regiment in garrison at Galatz, has addressed a letter to the Wallachian authorities of Ibrail, ordering that the Ottoman authorities shall not, on any pretext whatever, arrest either a Wallachian subject, or any other claiming Austrian protection, and also that, in the event of the arrival of Ottoman troops, however small the number, the authorities are immediately to give him notice of the fact. The interview at Fokshani between the Hospodars of Moldavia and Wallachia had for object to impress on the former the necessity of a prolonged Austrian military occupation, in order to secure the welfare and tranquillity of the two Principalities."

The insurrection in the Ukraine appears to be suppressed. According to the *Wanderer* of Vienna, the real cause of the rising was, that the resources of the

peasants were completely exhausted by the enormous supplies which they had been obliged to provide for the southern army. The poor creatures, who have hitherto been obliged to transport all the supplies and give food to the passing troops without remuneration, refuse to work, declaring that they will rather die of hunger than longer bear such heavy burdens. The insurance has spread much on the immense estates of Count Bransiki, who is related to the Imperial family. A Vienna letter says that the affair was much less important than at first stated, and that a few words from the proprietors were sufficient to quell the malcontents; but Russia of course would do her best to hush up the facts, and Austria would not be slow to help her.

A lamentable circumstance has happened at Rome. A lottery was being drawn in the Piazza del Popolo, by command of the Pope, in favour of the cholera epidemic. About two thousand persons were collected round the spot, when a scuffle took place between a band of pickpockets and the police, who drew their swords to prevent their prisoners being rescued. This produced a panic; swords were flourished by several of the persons present; and a battalion of soldiers, thinking that a revolution was commencing, advanced on the retreating crowd with fixed bayonets. In their efforts to escape, several persons were knocked down, trampled on, and severely hurt. The next morning the chief pickpocket, whose annotations had led to the calamity, was pilloried and hanged, to the great satisfaction of the public.

A mechanic named Federer, a Swiss by birth, but long resident in this city (says the *Salut Public* of Lyons), has just left for Paris, in order to submit to the examination of competent men a warlike machine of his invention. It has cost him many years' meditation and labour, and will, he says, throw 700 projectiles a minute, and destroy in a very short time either a town or a whole squadron.

M. Pleyel, the well-known pianoforte manufacturer, has just expired at Paris.

The *Independence Belge* says that Abd-el-Kader has applied to the French Government for permission to visit Paris, to see the Great Exhibition, and that the request will doubtless be granted.

The *Hamburg Correspondent* contains a letter from Copenhagen which says:—"The draft of the constitution for the whole of the monarchy having been now completed by the Government, it is said that the Diet will be immediately dissolved, and new elections proceeded to on June 15."

The great news frequently contradicted, that Russia was going to Paris, is confirmed by the *Press*, which says it has received a letter from its correspondent at Genoa, stating that the *maestro* had passed through the city on his way.

The *Corriere Italiano* of Vienna says:—"The accounts received from Russia give a melancholy picture of the state of commerce and manufactures in that country. All the labourers usually employed in agricultural work have been taken to construct redoubts and dig trenches along the line of the Vistula, and on the coast of the Baltic. The crops this year will consequently be very scanty. If there be also taken into account the injury which commerce has sustained by the blockade of the Russian ports in the Baltic and the Black Sea, it will be seen that the advantages hitherto derived by the Russians from the coasting trade has been completely annulled. The condition of the poorer classes is therefore becoming worse and worse every day."

The English residents in Paris have held their meeting of congratulation consequent on the failure of the recent attempt on the Emperor's life; and the address which was agreed to on that occasion was last Saturday presented at the Tuilleries. The address speaks of his Majesty's "sacred person." What next?

The Paris correspondent of the *Times* says that the delay in transmitting the Russian instructions from St. Petersburg to Vienna, in connexion with the Third Point, arose from dissensions in the Imperial family. The Emperor himself, fearing lest Russia should see all Europe arrayed against her, was inclined to a pacific course; but the Grand Duke Constantine declared himself the ardent and inexorable partisan of the war at all risks and sacrifices. "The dispute between those present, and particularly between the two brothers, became so animated, indeed so angry, that the Empress-Mother, notwithstanding her delicate state of health, was obliged to interfere. I have reason to know that it is solely to calm these outbursts of feeling and to maintain something like tranquillity in the Imperial family itself, as in the court, that she is obliged to prolong her stay at St. Petersburg, notwithstanding the necessities of her health, not to speak of her family affection, which would require a removal to Berlin." The writer says he has no reason to question the accuracy of this story.

The amendment of MM. Collegno and Desambrois in the Convents Suppression Bill has been accepted by the Government. The votes in the Senate were—47 for, 45 against. There were two absent.

Letters from Helsingfors, of the 26th ultimo, state that the formation of the twenty-six battalions of Finlanders, ordered by the late Czar, is now complete.

A report is circulated that his Neapolitan Majesty was shot at on the last day of the late review at Capri. It is said that the ball passed near enough to be heard. The fact I doubt. What is certain is, that the king in-

mediately after broke up the camp. For a punishment, the whole regiment was sent back to Naples on foot, instead of returning, as usual, by railway. On Monday last, a large Piedmontese steam-frigate, laden with troops, came nearly into port, and, after making the round of the shore, went off again. The Sardinian colours were flying, and the band was playing the national air. General Marmora was, it is added, on board. There was no communication with the shore. This demonstration is the more remarkable at the present moment when the Consul-General of Naples at Genoa has just been deprived of his "exequatur," and the *Corriere Mercantile* speaks of the conduct of the consul as declaring the two countries to be in a state of war.—*Daily News Correspondent.*

NAVAL AND MILITARY NEWS.

A ROMANISED ENGLISHMAN.—Among some troops recently embarked for the Crimea is Corporal Cumpston, of the 77th Regiment, who has been seventeen years in Russia as a civil engineer, and in almost every important place in the empire. He had in his knapsack ten Russian (good) characters from officers and departments in which he has been employed. He is a native of Maidstone, a fine, hale, stalwart fellow, and says he has 2000 dollars in a Russian bank. He asserts he was three days in one of the battalions of British Guards three months ago, but not entered, because the colonel suspected him of being a Russian spy—he speaks and writes Russian so perfectly; he was consequently rejected, and has only been enlisted in England three months. He came over from Parkhurst depot, with the detachment of the 77th. He is a well-spoken, respectable-looking soldier, and bears a good character among those whom he has so recently joined.

THE LATE STORMY WEATHER ON THE COASTS.—The *Pythias* and *Volcano*, which left Sheerness on Thursday week with the gunboats *Redwing*, *Thistle*, *Starling*, *Dapper*, and *Badger*, were obliged (in consequence of the gale of wind which came on suddenly in the evening) to cast off the gunboats, and all anchored under the Gunfleet between 10 and 11 P.M. John Barnett, master of the smack *Concord*, of Colchester, then riding near the Gunfleet, had his attention called to a number of rockets that were sent up in a south-easterly direction, apparently from some vessel in distress in the Black Deep. Shortly afterwards, five guns were fired from the same vessel, and both the *Kentish Knock* and the *Sunk Light*-vessels continued at intervals during the night to fire rockets and burn blue lights. At midnight, the master of the *Concord* slipped from his anchor and seventy fathoms of chain, for the purpose of going into the Black Deep to ascertain what vessel it was, and to render assistance to her. While under way, she passed two large steamers, the *Pythias* and *Volcano*, also two gunboats, then riding very heavily under the Gunfleet. At dawn of day, she boarded the vessel in the Black Deep, which proved to be the *Redwing* gunboat, commanded by Lieutenant Forbes. The *Redwing* was then under steam, proceeding up from the *Sunk Light*-vessel, steering for the Gunfleet Light. The *Redwing* spoke the *Pythias*, and obtained leave to proceed to Sheerness, having lost both bower anchors, when Barnett was engaged to pilot her to Sheerness. He boarded the *Redwing* about four miles above the Gunfleet, and piloted her into Sheerness, arriving there about 9.30 A.M. The *Badger* spoke the *Dapper*, the latter then being on shore, with the sea making a breach over her. The weather at the time prevented the *Badger* rendering any assistance to the *Dapper*, the officer in command of the *Dapper* stating that she was on shore, striking heavily. It appears that the *Volcano*, when towing, fouled several of the gunboats by driving thwart their hawse, and did damage to each of them. The *Redwing*, to prevent damage, cut her towing hawse and cleared. On the Port-Admiral at Sheerness being informed on Friday week of the situation in which the gunboat *Dapper* was last seen, he immediately ordered the steamvessel *Lizard* to proceed in search of her. The *Lizard* fell in with the *Dapper* near the Gunfleet-sand, and they arrived at Sheerness at 11.30 P.M. on the same day. The *Dapper* was in a very leaky state. The saving of the vessel is entirely owing to the indefatigable labour, zeal, and judicious management, of her commander, engineers, officers, and crew, all of whom were in a perfectly exhausted state on her arrival at Sheerness. Several attempts were made to get the large gun overboard; but, owing to the heavy sea, the strength of the crew was insufficient to accomplish it.

ARRIVAL OF THE ARCTIC DISCOVERY SHIP ENTERPRISE.—Her Majesty's ship *Enterprise*, Captain Collinson, arrived at Spithead last Sunday evening, after sunset, from the Arctic Regions, China, and the Cape of Good Hope. She sailed from the latter station (Table Bay) on the 18th of February, and St. Helena on the 2nd of March. The only news the *Enterprise* has brought confirms the reports which have preceded her arrival as to the hostile relations between her captain and his officers. It is quite true that all the executive officers of the ship (Commander Phayre, Lieutenants Jago and Parks, and Mr. Skead, the master) are under arrest, and have been so for terms varying from three years to lesser periods. Mr. Skead has been under arrest over three years, and Mr. Parks more than two years

and a half. The ship was navigated home by Mr. Wise, acting mate of the *Comus* sloop, who was charged with that duty by Sir James Stirling, the Commander-in-Chief of the China squadron. The arrested officers will be tried by court-martial at the instance of Captain Collinson, who will also be tried at the demand of those whom he has so long kept in confinement. The *Enterprise* was commissioned by Captain Collinson to go in search of Sir John Franklin on the 20th of December, 1849, in concert with the Investigator, Captain McClure, but has achieved nothing in the way of discovery of the lost expedition.

SERGEANT BRODIE: MORE PERSECUTION.—This honest and excellent-hearted soldier has been again placed under arrest, and subjected to a week's confinement, on a charge of "making false statements affecting the character of an officer." The facts are thus stated:—Coronet Baumgarten, a few weeks since, represented to the sergeant that he was in want of money; and ultimately Brodie handed over to him 20*l.*, upon receiving as security Mr. Baumgarten's watch. The coronet, however, chose to regard the transaction as a purchase. When questioned on the subject, he denied that he had borrowed money of a non-commissioned officer, and was induced by his companions to bring the present charge against Brodie. Last Tuesday morning, the latter was brought before the acting colonel, who, having read the usual preliminary form of a court-martial, told Brodie that he was discharged from arrest by order of the Adjutant-General, who expressed his opinion that Baumgarten ought not to have been on such terms with a non-commissioned officer.

THE FOREIGN LEGION.—A party of Polish prisoners, who are about to serve against Russia, were on Saturday embarked on board the *Dunbar* by the *Confiance* steamer. Before embarking, they were visited by several distinguished Polish residents.

MILITARY CAMPS.—It is said that the Government intend forming three more camps besides that at Aldershot—namely, one near Hull, one near Carlisle, and one at Beverley in Yorkshire.

FRIGHTFUL SHIPWRECK ON THE MANACLES.—A shipwreck, attended with loss of life to a most appalling extent, has taken place on the south coast. The bark *John*, of Plymouth, bound from that port to Quebec, struck on the Manacles on the night of Thursday week. She had sailed on the day of the accident, laden with emigrants, and, after having struck, drove into Godfrey Cove, and sank in about four or five fathoms water, at nearly low tide, it being then about half-past ten o'clock, wind E.N.E. The greatest confusion must have immediately followed; and, although for the instant the crew and passengers were enabled to keep the deck and poop, yet for five or six hours no help was afforded, owing to the coast thereabout being quite uninhabited; but, as day dawned, a fishing boat came out from Porthallow Cove, and succeeded in materially assisting in the preservation of the crew and about fifty of the passengers. It appears that there were embarked no less than three hundred emigrants, men, women and children; and, judging from those who have been saved, it seems that the loss in round numbers reaches nearly two hundred. Not far short of a hundred corpses have been brought to St. Keverna. When the vessel struck, only one passenger was on deck, who succeeded in getting ashore; the others were, for the most part, in bed. At the time of the catastrophe the wind was fair, and the weather tolerably clear; but the passengers assert that the *Lizard* Light had not been opened. The male emigrants on board were chiefly mechanics and labourers from the north of Devon, Somerset, and Cornwall, accompanied by a very large number of children. The steam-tug *Avon* was despatched to the wreck as soon as possible; and Lieutenant Carow, R.N., emigration agent at Plymouth, arrived at the scene of the calamity, and provided for the wants of the survivors. The coroner's inquest upon the bodies has terminated in a verdict of manslaughter against Captain Rawle, who is in custody at Bodmin. The jury expressed surprise that the vessel was not furnished with blue lights, and recommended that a light should be placed on the Manacles. They considered that there was not one extenuating circumstance, before or after the ship struck, in the conduct of the captain and the crew, all of whom are considered blameable, except a seaman named Elder.

THE BALTIC.—REVEL, APRIL 29.—Her Majesty's steamers *Conflict*, *Imperieuse*, and *Arrogant*, appeared off Baltic Port yesterday and notified the blockade, at the same time stating that a term of seven days would be allowed neutral ships to depart with the goods they then had on board, but that from the moment of the declaration of blockade no goods must be taken in, but ballast only. A letter from Hamburg of the 7th inst., in the *Independence* *Belge*, says:—"Letters from Riga, read to day on 'Change, state four steamers of the flying squadron, commanded by Commodore Watson, had entered the Gulf of Finland, in spite of the ice, which still rendered the navigation perilous. Some of those cruisers had even shown themselves before Revel. This circumstance is accounted for by the fact that the Russian fleet is blocked up in the ports by ice, three or four feet thick, which obstructs their entrance. It was also said that several of those steamers, which had thus ventured into the Gulf, had been sadly damaged by the floating ice. The steam corvette *Conflict* had succeeded in reaching the Danish harbour of Elsinore, where she is

now undergoing repairs. Hitherto, the only mission of those cruisers appears to have been to give chase to Russian merchant vessels. In the course of a few days the *Bulldog* appeared twice before the neutral port of Lubeck, and the *Archer* before that of Memel. The flying squadron will successively visit all the commercial harbours in the north."

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE COURT.—The Queen on Wednesday evening gave a State Ball, to which a party of between 1000 and 1700 were invited, and for which the whole of the State rooms of Buckingham Palace were brilliantly illuminated.—On Thursday evening, her Majesty, accompanied by Prince Albert and the royal children, honoured the Polytechnic with a visit.

MORE INCENDIARY FIRES.—The *Cambridge Independent* reports two more extensive incendiary fires near St. Ives. About twenty houses, together with numerous barns, stables, granaries, and outbuildings, have been destroyed; and a great many milch cows, pigs, domestic fowl, and two horses, perished in the flames. There appears to be no doubt that the act was that of an incendiary.

A DISTRESSING ACCIDENT, which resulted in the loss of three lives, occurred in Birmingham on Saturday night, at a concert room, at the *Spread Eagle Inn*. There was an escape of gas, and a cry of "Fire" ensued; the company instantly rushed to the staircase, and in the crush a policeman on duty, a boy, and a girl, were trampled to death. Five others, dreadfully injured, were conveyed to the hospital.

THE WEATHER.—The snow was three inches deep in the Isle of Purbeck on the morning of Friday week. The Winchester hills were also covered with snow, which, although not so beneficial as warm rain, afforded by its moisture some relief to the dried-up ground. On Friday night, the frost was very severe throughout the south of England, and ice was a quarter of an inch thick. On the same day, the whole of the Northumberland coast was covered with snow, which in some places drifted several inches in height. The frost was intense, and the ice before sunrise was half an inch thick.

FUNERAL OF SIR HENRY BISHOP.—This lamented composer was buried on Saturday in the new cemetery at Finchley. Several musical gentlemen assembled at the entrance of the chapel; and a full choir performed Croft's Burial Service. The vocalists were dressed in surplices.

THE ANNUAL ROYAL ACADEMY DINNER took place last Saturday within the walls of the Academy. The chair was taken by the President, Sir C. L. Eastlake; and about one hundred and eighty gentlemen, including many of the ministerial and political celebrities of the day, as well as several noblemen and persons connected with science and art, sat down to dinner. The speakers comprised the President, Lord Hardinge, Lord Cardigan, Sir Charles Wood, Mr. Buchanan (the American ambassador), the Duke of Argyll, Lord Palmerston, Lord Stanley of Alderley, Lord Campbell, the Lord Mayor, Earl de Grey, and Lord Wrottesley. The speeches were not of a nature to call for analysis.

ST. PANCRA'S AND MARLBOROUGH REFORMATORY INSTITUTION.—The first public meeting of this institution was held on Thursday week. The report was read by the Rev. W. Norman, and stated that the institution was opened in December, 1852, with six inmates, that there was now room for forty. The building was ill adapted to the purpose, but one capable of containing one hundred might be erected for 100*l.* Applicants were constantly rejected from want of room and funds. Thirty-five had left, four of whom had gone, after a short trial, unable to bear the discipline. Two had emigrated. Fifteen had been set up in trade, with whom correspondence was maintained, two had been provided for by friends, eleven had gone into the army and navy, one had been dismissed for misconduct, and thirty-one are now inmates. The secretary adduced some striking instances of improvement among the inmates, and the remarkable and beautiful fact of their having voluntarily deprived themselves of their supper for five weeks for the purpose of subscribing to the Patriotic Fund, and that, unknown to the governor, they had given a portion of their daily bread during the late high prices to the neighbouring poor.

THE NEW PLANET lately discovered at Düsseldorf has received the name of *Leukothea*. Its distinctive sign will be an ancient light tower.

WASHINGTON IRVING, says the *New York Courier*, is suffering from a casualty sustained on the 18th of April. Mr. Irving was riding on the river road near Sunnyside, when his horse took fright and ran away. The animal's head was towards home, for which he made at a terrible pace. Mr. Irving kept his seat, and might have escaped unhurt, but, as the horse turned from the main road, he fell and threw his rider, who was taken up stunned by the fall. Mr. Irving remained insensible for several hours, and, though for some time in danger, is now (April 21) considerably better.

DEATH OF SIR ROBERT HARRY INGLIS.—This gentleman—long known to the Parliamentary world, and respected even by those who differed from his High-church and Conservative principles—died on Saturday night at his town residence in Bedford-square. He was born on the 12th of January, 1786, and was conse-

quently in his 70th year. "He first entered Parliament," says the *Standard*, "as member for Dundalk, which borough he represented until 1826. In that year he was returned for Ripon, and continued its representative until 1828, when the late Sir Robert Peel, having changed his opinions on Catholic emancipation, accepted the Chiltern Hundreds, in order to give his constituents of the University of Oxford an opportunity of expressing their opinion upon his conduct. On that occasion, the conservatives of the University brought Sir Robert Inglis forward to oppose their former representative, and returned him by a large majority." From that time to his retirement, owing to ill health, about two years ago, he retained his seat without any opposition.

THE ROYAL ASSENT was given by commission on Saturday to the Loan Bill.

DR. BARTHE, the explorer, was met by Dr. Vogel, on the 1st of December last, at Bundi, about 110 geographical miles north-east from Kuka. Dr. Barth afterwards went to Kuka, intending to return to Europe by Murzook and Tripoli.

EARL GRANVILLE is slowly recovering from his late accident.

THE OLDEST CATHOLIC PRELATE now living is Samuel, Archbishop of the United Armenian Church, at Lemberg, in Galicia: he is 104 years of age. He is still vigorous, and strictly observes the severest fasts.

ANOTHER LADY CHARGED WITH THEFT.—Mrs. Mary Roberts, a lady in the possession of 1000*l.* a year, was recently charged at the Hammersmith police court, with stealing two night-dresses, two pairs of drawers, and two chemises, from Mrs. Anne Such, in whose house she had lodged. Mrs. Such missed the articles after the accused had left her house; but she was unable to produce any testimony fixing the guilt upon Mrs. Roberts, and her answers to the questions put to her were very contradictory. The magistrate therefore dismissed the case; and the prisoner, who had cried bitterly while in the dock, left the court with her friends.

AMERICA.—The last mails from the United States bring no news of importance. From California we hear that the house of Page, Bacon, and Co., has resumed business, and that the deposits exceeded the sum drawn by nearly 100,000*l.* The *Alta California* announces, on reliable authority, that serious difficulties were anticipated relative to a controversy between the United States' resident consul and Nicaragua. An American frigate had been despatched to Nicaragua. Business at San Francisco was very dull. From Peru we learn that the steamer Rimac had been wrecked, and nearly one hundred persons on board perished. The New York money market remained easy. Advices from Montreal state that nearly the whole of the township of Vienna, between Hamilton and Bonford, had been destroyed by fire.—According to recent dates from the West Indies, Mexico continues in a very unsettled state. Santa Anna had left the capital for the south at the head of his troops, and had encountered and defeated the force under Alvarez.

CANAL BETWEEN THE BLACK SEA AND THE DANUBE.—It is stated that Mr. Thomas Wilson, formerly a Dutch merchant, has proposed a plan for opening a canal communication between the Black Sea and the Danube from a point in the Bay of Kostendje to a part of the river between Chernavoda and Rassoava, the line followed being nearly identical with that of the remains of Trajan's Wall. The distance to be traversed would be little more than thirty miles; and the route would effect a saving of about two hundred and fifty miles of navigation in transporting produce from Servia, Bulgaria, and most parts of Wallachia, while it would also have the advantage of being away from the neighbourhood of Russia. Mr. Wilson is said to have sent out some engineers a few weeks ago to survey the locality; and it is added that the Turkish authorities in London look favourably upon the project. The idea of constructing a canal at the St. George's mouth of the Danube, to escape the impediments purposely accumulated by the Russians at the Sulina mouth, has often in past years attracted attention; but, if the face of the country should be nearly as favourable for such a work at Kostendje, the general superiority of that point would seem to be very great.—*Times*.

SUBMARINE TREASURE.—An American vessel is now engaged in exploring the wreck of the frigate San Pedro, on the coast of Venezuela. This frigate, supposed to have had on board two or three million dollars, was blown up at the island of Margarita, in 1815. Some 300,000 dollars have in former times been taken up; and a diving bell has been sent down, the operators in which are "shovelling dollars," to use the expression of one of them, at a great rate. The copper, guns, shot, &c., will also be recovered. The captain reports that there are two other sunken vessels lying near, containing several thousand dollars, which he proposes to recover.

M. DE ST. LEON, the husband of Madame Cerito, has been decorated with the Portuguese Order of Christ.

SUPERSTITION IN THE WEST.—At an early hour on the morning of the 1st of May, a woman, respectably attired and accompanied by an elderly gentleman, applied for admittance to the cemetery at Plymouth. On being allowed to enter, they proceeded to the grave of the last man interred, and the woman, who had a large wen on her throat, rubbed her neck three times each way on each side of the grave, departing before sunrise.

By this process it was expected the malady would be cured!

THE MAINE LIQUOR AND LICENSE QUESTION caused a sanguinary riot at Chicago on the 21st ult., in which four men were killed and six others dangerously wounded. The rioters were chiefly composed of Germans, Incendiaries were busy at work during the excitement, and nine or ten buildings were set fire to, but were speedily subdued—the authorities being on the alert.

CUBA.—The *New York Tribune* of the 24th ult. contains the following:—"The Filibusteros have opened offices in Broadway and other thoroughfares for the enlistment of men to serve in 'the war with Spain;' and we hear that applications are quite numerous. The remnant of the Mexican Volunteers, and a squadron of office-holders from the Custom-house, stand godfathers to the new army, which is to be called the 'Worth Legion.' So far from preventing forays upon Cuba, it seems that the Government at Washington is the special patron of the business."

A SPITALFIELDS SILK MERCHANT, seventy-four years of age, has committed suicide by throwing himself out of his bedroom window.

FIRES AT BERMONDSEY AND CLAPHAM.—On Sunday, a large glue and size manufactory at Bermondsey, covering upwards of an acre of ground, caught fire, and was destroyed. The flames were communicated to the neighbouring premises, occupied by a leatherseller.—On the same night, a conflagration burst out at a grocer's in Clapham, which spread to an adjoining house and did great damage.

A FATAL ACCIDENT happened on Sunday at the new Lancaster tower, in course of erection on the spit of the Isle of Grain, at the entrance of the Medway. Advantage was taken of moderate weather on Sunday to discharge a cargo of heavy patent building bricks. These bricks were stacked upon stages; and, when nearly 2000 of them were placed there, the supporters gave way, and the entire mass fell on five of the workmen. One was killed; the other four are so seriously injured that there is very little hope of their recovery.

STATE OF TRADE, LABOUR, AND THE POOR.—The markets of Liverpool have been recently exhibiting greater liveliness, owing, in a great measure, to American advices, stating that the rivers continue low and the receipts small, enabling the holders of cotton to sell freely, and to recover, at the latest date. The Manchester spinners, however, are exhibiting great caution, production having already gained upon consumption. The failure of the old and respectable firm of Mellore and Russell, at Liverpool, in the Brazilian trade, is announced; and the liabilities in this country are about 60,000*l.* The markets of Halifax, in worsteds, yarns, and wools, are depressed. The cloth-market of Huddersfield is also rather depressed; but at Rochdale there is a very tolerable demand for flannels. The Birmingham report describes great quietness and a diminution of employment, the American and colonial orders being still very small. At Nottingham there has been a slight increase in transactions, both in hosiery and lace, but at low prices. In the woollen districts business again shows a little improvement, but in the Irish linen-markets there has been a tendency to renewed heaviness. In the general business of the port of London during the week ending last Saturday, there was some improvement.

THE POST-OFFICE IN 1748.—"The Post-office is kept in Lombard-street, in a large house, formerly Sir Robert Viner's, and is under admirable management. The penny-post is a branch of it, and a most useful addition to trade and business, for by it letters are delivered to the remotest corners of the town almost as soon as they could be sent by a messenger, and that from four, five, six to eight times a-day, according as the distance of the place makes it practicable—inasmuch that you may send a letter from Limehouse in the east to the furthest part of Westminster for a penny several times in the same day, and to the neighbouring villages, as Kensington, Hammersmith, Chiswick, &c., westward; Newington, Islington, Kentish-town, Hampstead, Holloway, Highgate, &c., northward; to Newington Butts, Camberwell, &c., southward; and Stepney, Poplar, Bow, Stratford, Deptford, Greenwich &c., eastward—once a day. Nor are you tied up to a single piece of paper, as in the General Post-office; but any packet under a pound weight goes at the same price."—*A Tour through the whole Island of Great Britain*, by a Gentleman, in 4 vols.; fourth edition, with corrections down to 1748. London. (This is stated to be by De Foe; but his name is not in the title page.)

INTERCOMMUNICATION IN RAILWAY TRAINS.—On Saturday last, a trial of Mr. Wickens's invention for effecting a communication between the driver and the guard on a railway train was made on the Windsor train of the South-Western line, in the presence of Lieut.-Colonel Wynne, railway inspector from the Board of Trade, Mr. E. R. Williams, of the Board of Trade, Mr. J. Beattie, engineer of the line, Dr. Spurgin, Mr. Wickens, and others. The invention is remarkable for its simplicity, and the impossibility of its being put out of order, however rapid the rate of speed or great the oscillation of the engine or carriages, and is applicable to a train of any length. It consists of two small, portable boxes, one of which is placed at each end of the train: into each box is fixed a short piece of india-rubber tubing, which is connected with the end of a tin tube,

extending the whole length of the train, and which, being formed of joints fitting into each other, can be shortened or lengthened in a few seconds, as the case may require. In each of these boxes is fixed a very simple, but very efficacious apparatus, which, being worked by a handle outside the box, emits a loud and shrill whistle from the driver to the guard, or from the guard to the driver, as may be necessary. The code of signals is of equal simplicity with the rest of the invention, and may be understood without difficulty and worked by anybody: one whistle meaning "Go on—take off breaks;" two whistles, "Slacken speed—look out; three (danger signal), "Stop—reverse engine—put on breaks;" four (speed signal), "Go faster—behind time—another train following," &c. Each whistle is caused by one separate pressure of the handle of the box. By a very trifling addition to the construction, the communication is also conveyed from any of the carriages to the guard. The result of the trial was entirely satisfactory, the invention fully performing what was claimed for it. The public will learn with satisfaction that the Government are about to bring in a bill compelling railway companies to adopt a communication along the trains, by which security from danger may in future be afforded to passengers.

THE STORY OF AN OLD BOW-STREET RUNNER.—At the Middlesex Sessions, last week, Thomas Gaines, 75, pleaded guilty to an indictment, in which he was charged with having stolen the sum of 24*l.* There was a further charge against him of stealing a chisel. The prisoner was one of the old Bow-street runners, and has frequently been convicted of felony and other offences. He was only recently discharged from the House of Correction, after undergoing a sentence of six months for an assault on a woman. Formerly he was an inmate of the Lunatic Asylum at Hanwell, where the kindness of the Assistant-Judge, in his then official capacity in connexion with that establishment, made such an impression on him that he fails not when he makes his appearance at the bar before his Lordship to mark his gratitude by inquiring in the kindest manner as to the state of his health; and on the present occasion he enlivened the Court by expressing a familiar but fervent hope that his friend Serjeant Adams was well and hearty. The prisoner is in the habit (when not in prison) of wandering about the town, his person profusely bedecked with the paraphernalia of the gaoler's office—chains and keys—from which it would seem that his ideas, in his dotage and imbecility, still cling to the associations of his former employment. He himself acknowledges that he is not right in his mind; but makes a kind of boast that it is in consequence of having had a silver plate put in his head, on account of a cut sustained in arresting the Cato-street conspirators. The Assistant-Judge sentenced him to two years' imprisonment, at the same time directing that the requisite certificates should be immediately prepared for his removal to Hanwell Asylum. As the prisoner was removed, he bowed his acknowledgments to "his friend the Serjeant."

Postscript.

LEADER OFFICE, Saturday, May 12.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE matter before the House was of little interest; principally relating to inquiries of the Government as to their intentions with regard to several Law Reform Bills now pending.

Their Lordships adjourned before seven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR PEACE.

MR. MILNER GIBSON gave notice that on the earliest possible day he should move an humble address to her Majesty, thanking her for having directed the papers relating to the Vienna Conference to be laid before the House, and representing to her Majesty that the four general articles having been agreed on by all the Powers concerned, a reasonable expectation was afforded that the recent negotiations might have terminated successfully, and expressing regret that a difference between the Allied Powers as to the interpretation of the Third Article had caused the negotiations to be broken off, and asserting that the interpretation of that point by Russia contains the elements for renewed negotiations, and forms the basis of an honourable and satisfactory peace.

THE LATEST AFFAIR BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.

IN answer to Mr. GROGAN, Lord PALMERSTON said that a telegraphic despatch, stated that the Russians had made a sortie in force on our right advanced trenches on Thursday, but they were driven back with great loss. He took the opportunity of saying, that as these despatches were sent in cypher, it was impossible to give anything like their exact words without at once putting an end to the system of the cypher.

LORD RAGLAN'S DESPATCH AND THE SEBASTOPOL COMMITTEE.

MR. ROEBUCK having moved for a copy or extracts of a despatch of Lord Raglan in answer to a de-

patch of the Duke of Newcastle, dated 29th June, 1854, which was alluded to by the Duke in his evidence before the Committee on the army before Sebastopol, and which the Committee did not think proper to call for, and which was unopposed.

Lord HOTHAM very earnestly entreated Lord Palmerston to state whether it could be produced without injury to the public service.

Lord PALMERSTON very curtly replied that it could without any such danger.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY AT MAYNOOTH.

Colonel GREVILLE having inquired whether Mr. O'Ferrall, one of the Maynooth Commissioners, and the two Secretaries having been called on to explain the circumstances connected with the transmission of the evidence and reports to Rome, and the alleged additions and alteration of the evidence,

Mr. HORSMAN said those gentlemen had arrived in London, and from inquiries made of them he could explain these circumstances, and he went at length into the matter. In substance he stated that the only alterations were that when the evidence was seen by the Roman Catholic prelates whose territorial titles were not used by the Secretary, those prelates inserted their territorial titles. He read documents from Lord Harrowby and the other commissioners, to show that the evidence now before the House was identically the same as that produced in December, 1853.

Mr. SPOONER very strenuously denied the accuracy of Lord Harrowby's statement, and persisted in his assertion that the report had been tampered with.

STATE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

Major REED then called the attention of her Majesty's Government to the highly critical position of public affairs, and to the increasing anxiety and dissatisfaction which at present pervade all classes of society, and impressed upon her Majesty's Government the wisdom of immediately anticipating those consequences which are certain to arise from continual popular demonstrations, by at once introducing such reforms in every branch of the State as are consonant with the intelligence of the age and the just demands of the people. He called on Lord Palmerston to make some declaration of what his policy was to be, and pressed on him that he had disappointed the expectations of the country both in the formation of his Ministry and the want of activity he had displayed.

Lord PALMERSTON admitted the right of the hon. gentleman to make this demand on him, and proceeded to say that he feared the expectations of the public had been unduly raised on his behalf; and, as regarded the choice of his Ministry, he had gone to such men as were to be found who were eminent for their public services and experience. As to the question of bringing into the Government men of mercantile experience and ability, it was difficult to obtain the services of such men, who would have to sacrifice their private associations and business; and he instanced the failure of Lord Derby to obtain Mr. Thomas Baring for his Chancellor of the Exchequer, and his own to get Mr. Laing to enter his Ministry. With regard to Administrative Reform, that had not been lost sight of by the Government, and much had been done, and was to be done. The condition of the army had been restored to one of the utmost efficiency. It was true that after forty years' peace, when war began many mistakes were made. Alterations had, however, been made: the commissariat had been placed under the military authorities, and its details were being arranged by Sir John McNeil, and it was now working well. The department of Transport had been separated from that of Supply to the army, and was now in a state of complete efficiency. The medical department of the army was about to be remodelled; a civilian would be united with a military man at its head, and the whole would be under the direct control of the Secretary for War. The hospital arrangements in the East had been placed in a most satisfactory state, and civil commissioners had been sent out to look into and set right the sanitary condition of the camp in the Crimea. The department of Naval Transport was now made more efficient. With regard to what was going to be done, the inconvenience arising from the present position of the Ordnance Department was about to be remedied by abolishing the office of Master-General and the Board of Ordnance as a separate body, and the Artillery and Engineers be placed under the same military chief as the rest of the army. The civil departments of the Ordnance would be placed under the Secretary for War, so that unity of control might be obtained for all branches of the service. That branch of the business of the army hitherto conducted by the Secretary at War or the Financial Department, would also be, as it had been lately, made under the Secretary for War. With reference to this principle of concentration of authority being carried still further, and making the Secretary for War also Commander-in-Chief, there were objections to that, owing to the form of government in this country causing as it did

continual political changes; and he was certain that the discipline of the army should be under the control of a military man, who would not be so liable to change, and who should not be a Minister of the day; and that in his hands should be the patronage of the army. He believed these changes would cause great improvements, although their effects might not be as prompt and immediate as might be expected. But when they had been tried, the Government would be ready to reconsider and amend them; for the Government had nothing at heart but the utmost desire so to amend our system as to enable them successfully to prosecute and terminate the war in which we were engaged. He acknowledged the support the House had given to the Government, and expressed his hope that the House and country would have cause to feel themselves justified in continuing the forbearance they had shown to the Ministry.

Mr. DISRAELI referred to the Government having objected to discussions like this, last Friday being taken on the motion of the adjournment of the House to Monday; he expressed his surprise at the course taken by Lord Palmerston in making a statement and communication such as he had made, and said he thought it would have been more courteous to the House, and more worthy of the position of the noble lord, if some notice had been given of this proceeding. He then proceeded very successfully to ridicule the terms of the motion of Major Reid, which he characterised as portentous; and said he was perplexed to learn what was its meaning and from whence it came, and insinuated that it was the production of Lord Palmerston himself. Looking to the wide terms of the motion, Lord Palmerston had made but a meagre communication—for all he had communicated was with regard to military reforms, and of that notice had been given in the Lords. As to the consolidation of the military departments, there was no novelty in that plan, which had long been recommended by commissions and committees—and that very course the Government had refused to adopt last year, and to that refusal was owing much of the disaster which had occurred. He should now criticise the plan of the Government. If they were well considered and fit to meet the emergency he should support them; but if they did not fulfil those conditions, he should not be afraid to give them his decided opposition.

A discussion, originated by Mr. BELLEW, with regard to the unseaworthiness of the Seringapatam, a transport which conveyed troops to the Mauritius, followed, and the officials of the Admiralty were duly defended by Sir C. WOOD.

THE NEWSPAPER STAMP BILL.

The adjourned debate on the third reading of this bill was resumed, in which Mr. PARKER, Mr. MACGIBRE, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER and others took part; but the discussion contained nothing very noticeable.

On a division the numbers were:—

For the third reading	138
Against it	60
	—78

Mr. NAPIER, on behalf of Mr. WHITESIDE, then brought a clause to enable a newspaper weighing six ounces to be carried through the post for one penny. After a short discussion, the clause was negatived without a division, and the bill was passed.

The Spirits Duties Bill was passed through committee. The Stamp Duties on Bankers' Cheques Bill was withdrawn. The other business was disposed of, and the House adjourned at half-past twelve.

Pianori has appealed against his sentence to the Court of Cassation. Their decision will be final as far as the law goes, and will of course be in favour of the condemnation; but it is rumoured in Paris that the Emperor contemplates a grand *coup*, and intends pardoning the condemned assassin.

General Marmora, with 4000 of the Piedmontese contingent, arrived before Balaklava on the 5th instant.

FRANCE WANTS REST.

TALK ye of rest. There is rest for the brave

On the field that their valour has won.

There is rest in his slavery's night for the slave

That ne'er hath seen Liberty's sun—

No rest for the hearts that for liberty crave,

Till Liberty's reign has begun.

Rest! O my country, of thy noble heart

Never was rest the first prayer.

Thy statesmen, thy sages, thy poets—their art

Was ever to teach thee to dare—

Then praise not the dastard's, the infidel's part,

Till in thine own soul is despair.

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NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ERRATA IN OUR LAST.—In our First Leading Article, p. 422, at 1st line from the top, for high morals, read high morale.—In the News of the Week, p. 410, at 14th line from top, for national improvement, read material improvement.—In the Literature Summary, p. 427, at 4th line from the bottom, for MM. Charles Trolong and Dupin, read MM. Trolong and Charles Dupin.

During the Session of Parliament it is often impossible to find room for correspondence, even the briefest.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Whatever is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer; not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith.

Communications should always be legibly written, and on one side of the paper only. If long, it increases the difficulty of finding space for them.

We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

The Leader.

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1855.

Public Affairs.

There is nothing so revolutionary, because there is nothing so unnatural and convulsive, as the strain to keep things fixed when all the world is by the very law of its creation in eternal progress.—Dr. ARNOLD

EXPECTANT.

THE Government of England is vacant—where is "the Man" to take the sword of State in his strong hand. His time has come—why does he not step forth? Not long since we were told that we needed information—inquiry: we have had both; we have the report of the Sebastopol Committee, the Vienna Protocols; we know exactly how we stand. Russia inveigled us into the Vienna Conference, only to outrage us with a mockery of "negotiation." She will not yield a single inch of ground that she holds, nor a single opportunity that she can take. She will not, her Plenipotentiaries formally affirm in Conference, abate her Euxine navy, or admit that Turkish territory is inviolable. Austria professes fidelity to her pledges, but trembles at the test of war. Prussia has even now been permitted to retain her treacherous "neutrality." War must go on, unless we accept the alternative of disgrace for the sons of the men of Crecy and Waterloo, the countrymen of BLAKE and NELSON. War must go on, and we have two effective allies—France and Sardinia; while our brave army is still locked up "before" Sebastopol, "repulsing" the Russians whom we went to attack.

What is our position at home? A lecturer of the Peace Society is travelling about the country, haranguing against the war. A Peer announces a motion to recommend submission to Russia, and peace. In the House of Commons there are Peace men below the gangway, near the Treasury bench, on it; and the whole House is prepared to vote as it is bidden. Look to that vote on Sir ERSKINE PERRY's motion. We want men, irregular cavalry, and officers experienced in the field: we have plenty in India—nearly half a million: Sir ERSKINE PERRY moves the House to ask if that army cannot be called into the field: and the Commons of England refuse to inquire. They forfeit their duty in subservient complicity with the Executive, of which the English Commons should be jealous while that Executive lags behind the will of the people. And why are the Commons bidden thus to desert their duty? Because, if the Indian

be confounded with the Royal army, gentlemen of family in the crack regiments will lose their proportionate rank, and be deprived of their opportunities. Ministers consent to do without that great and tried army in India, because the Crimea is to be a monopoly of the families, and the faithful Commons obey. War goes on abroad, and this state of things goes on at home.

Lord ELLENBOROUGH challenges the Peers, on Monday next, to stand up and protest against a recreant supineness that lets our flag draggle in the dust. Mr. LAYARD will call the Commons to their duty. But, after all, the true responsibility lies with the Nation and the Electors. The time has come to ask these plain questions—Shall we submit to this provisional Government? Are these representatives false? Do they speak our mind, perform our will, defend our interests and honour? Shall we be the puppets with which false representatives play the skittle game of party; or follow the strongest man, that speaks our mind, is prepared to execute our will, bold enough to seize the sword of State, and to show that once more it shall cease to be a bauble;—the man that is ready, when we must go through with war, not to play with the lives of other men the dismal farce of an official fight, but to lead us through the storm, sternly to the well-earned peace beyond? We must ask ourselves these questions:—can we not answer them?

THE MORALITY OF MISSIONS.

LOUIS NAPOLEON tells his Senate that being an existence indispensable to Providence, he is invulnerable till he has performed his mission. Whereupon eminent political writers tell us that it may be doubtful whether this fatalistic belief is true or orthodox, but that at all events it is brave, heroic, and thoroughly Napoleonic. We confess that the distinction between the heroic and the true eludes our apprehension. The religious journals would, perhaps, understand it better. But we can quite understand the distinction between either and the Napoleonic. It is Napoleonic to betray the confidence reposed in you by a people, to convert to your own selfish ends the fruits of revolution and the agony of a nation, and to seek to throw a halo round all this by talking fustian about your "Star."

It is time to call for some explanation of the doctrine of missions. What security has Society against the most infamous attempts, if any rogue or fanatic may allege a secret warrant from Providence for breaking down all the barriers of morality that stand between him and the object of his ambition? *Sua cuique Deus fit dira cupido.* To believe that a pistol, well aimed, will not hit you, is a very innocent superstition, of which LOUIS NAPOLEON is entirely guiltless, for while he declares himself invulnerable, he keeps a corps of disguised guards to protect his life. But to believe that you are a chosen instrument in the hands of Providence to overturn by fraud and violence a constitution which you have sworn to guard, and to butcher or exile those who are likely to resist you, if your belief is not true, is an awkward hallucination, more especially if you are the person whose ambition and cupidity directly profit, in spite of sanctimonious abnegations.

A mission which dispenses with veracity and morality implies a direct revelation. That revelation must be authenticated. Where did LOUIS NAPOLEON receive his divine commission, and what was its specific object? We have had several proclaimed. It is the interest and the right of humanity to know.

There is a mission of duty, which is

prompted by pure nobility of soul, which justifies itself to humanity by self-sacrifice, and which needs no authentication but the divinity in a man's own breast. Such was the mission accepted by WASHINGTON, when, with everything that could tempt personal ambition, and every pretext for indulging it, he set himself with a pure soul to consolidate the liberties of his country. Such a mission was offered to LOUIS NAPOLEON; and he fulfilled it by aggravating the disorder and exaggerating the terror around him, till he had found an excuse for accomplishing his design, through the agency of a soldiery which he had been all along perfidiously bribing for the purpose. The world at present worships the star of triumphant roguery on a grand scale. By the end of the century perhaps it may have had an experience of stars, glory, and prætorians, which will lead it again to listen to the oracle of duty.

The idea that you are yourself indispensable to the designs of Providence is one which we will venture to say never entered into any religious mind. It is the offspring of impious vanity and selfishness. The greater and better a man is, the less he thinks of his own agency, and the more he thinks of the end for which he works, as any one may see who will study the lives of true heroes. Had LOUIS NAPOLEON's creed been heroic, and had he himself been in the path of political duty, he would have said to his Senate, "Learn to rely less on the life of a single man. Let us labour together to establish those principles which will make our country free, orderly and happy without me as well as with me; the rest is in the hands of God." When will France have a ruler who can sincerely speak thus to his people?

EDUCATED SCARECROWS.

MR. MILNER GIBSON's secular scheme, Sir J. PAKINGTON's semisecular scheme, and Lord JOHN RUSSELL's Privy Council Extension scheme, are competing for the honour of educating the British peasantry. They are all laudable attempts, particularly that of Sir JOHN PAKINGTON, which is a dead-lift effort to show the world that Toryism is not so Tory as it is painted. But the drawback to them all is, that the being whose mind they propose to improve, invigorate, refine, and elevate, is wanted for a scarecrow. Such, we believe, is the purpose to which our present civilisation in most of the agricultural counties applies the British peasant, under penalty of starving, about the time when his mind becomes capable of education.

Want—shivering, white-lipped want—and the brutality, the grossness, the deadening of all affections which spring from it, is the evil which must first be remedied. A man is incapable of education to any good purpose when he is battling with sheer starvation from hour to hour. He is incapable of education, and if he were capable of it, he would not profit by it. There is no use in opening his eyes if he is to see with them not a beneficent world of hope, but an iron and hopeless prison-house. There is no use in quickening his perceptions if he is only to perceive that with the form and faculties of a man he has inherited the lot of a beast. There is no use in kindling his affections if they are to awake in a home where the children must starve that the father must be fed. You had better let him alone, or give him only that sort of education which Mr. HENLEY, with unconscious picturesqueness, describes as teaching him to struggle through this life into the life to come. Cram him with those texts of the Bible which tell him, or can be twisted into telling him, that his feeding, lodging, and clothing are postponed to the next world, and that he must

respect Waterperry and its preserves in this.

The laws of political economy, like all other laws of nature, ought to be respected. But, rightly understood, they do not enjoin any man to use his fellow as a serf any more than they do to use him as a slave—which also in ancient times appeared a law of nature, and which, in some countries, appears a law of nature still. No chaos would result if squires kept fewer hunters, preserved fewer pheasants, drank less port, made fewer tours on the Continent, and built better houses for the poor. No chaos would result, if that which is done now by poor-laws, and workhouses, and gaols, were done by a better organisation. Letting alone the humanity part of the question, we should get more out of the land if the peasantry had more interest in the work and were better fed. Austere science is a little apt to forget not only that the happiness of man is a real gain to his fellow, and a thing you may give money for without being a fool, but that willing and healthy labour is worth a great deal more to the community than the niggard drudgery of a starving serf.

We do not threaten the squires with a Peasant's War. The peasants are too divided, too dull, and, as Englishmen, too submissive to the law for us to expect anything of the kind. The patience, indeed, with which they endure their lot of scanty wages in all weathers, and in the severest weather no wages at all, while others are luxuriating before their eyes in the produce of their toil, is equalled only by the heroic endurance of their fellow-peasants in the trenches before Sebastopol. But we do threaten every squire who can think and feel (and fortunately this number is increasing) with an insurrection in his own heart against the system to which he has the misfortune to belong. Many of the humane gentlemen of England would have become uneasy before now, if they had themselves to grind the peasant, instead of grinding him through the tenant-farmer. When he assumes the form of the soldier, and becomes an object of sentiment, they are ready to do everything for him in their power; and they forget that in his common character of a day-labourer he is feeding their luxury by enduring, though silently and ingloriously, all the hardships and privations which can fall to a soldier's lot.

You talk of the burdens on land. The great burden on land is the landlord; and unless this burden can be removed, or changed into a benefit, in the end a crash must come. The necessity of landlords is pretty well disposed of by the example of France, Belgium, Tuscany, and Switzerland. Let them demonstrate their own utility if they can. But in the meantime, to enlighten the peasantry is only opening their hearts to feel misery, and opening their eyes to see injustice.

INTRIGUES.

THE Administrative Reformers have justified our worst misgivings by making over their cause to Lord DERBY, who, of course, readily accepts their programme, and will as easily get rid of it when it has served his purpose. So it seems not impossible that the aristocratic party of England, and the men whose principles of administration stand recorded in the report of the Dockyard Committee, will ride into office on an anti-aristocratic cry for administrative reform. Indignation is wasted on this, as well as on many other political phenomena. The only moral to be drawn is, that men of sense and honour should have mutual toleration and stand by each other.

The Tories have also, we understand, been negotiating with Mr. LAYARD, whose resolutions they would support if he would say

nothing about family influence. Perhaps if he would say *Whig* family influence it would do as well. The family influence which made do the Duke of NORTHUMBERLAND First Lord of the Admiralty, and put Lord LONSDALE at the head of national education, is purely beneficial. Lord ELLENBOROUGH moves in the Lords that the war has been mismanaged; that is, that he ought to have managed it himself. He would have done some things vigorously and well; but his good sense stands recorded in the Sonnauth proclamation, and his programme of a campaign in Asia savours of the wild elephant. Lord PALMERSTON clearly tries to knock Mr. LAYARD's head against Lord ELLENBOROUGH. Mr. LAYARD cleverly evades the collision. The Ministry will have a hard week of it. Lord ELLENBOROUGH is said to be confident, but it will hardly be a recommendation with the Lords that he gets wind for his sails from the quarter of Administrative Reform. However, the British aristocracy, if it falls, will fall nobly, intriguely to the end.

AGITATION.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

Sir,—In our country, just now, everything is ready for the Revolution—except the Revolutionists. Dis-may, despair, are the sensations of the class of men who feel some responsibility to the huge, helpless nation; but the emotion does not suggest action. We are drifting, as a people: or, if we act at all, it is, while crying for a Revolution, to attempt a change. We want certain things done on the instant, and, therefore, we enter on an agitation: and that is our old national plan—so traditional that we do not observe that we have a House of Commons constructed by the constitution specially to anticipate agitation,—to be the agitator. We know, by experience, that agitation in England is a seven years' business; but we can't help that. It relieves our feelings to enter on an agitation; and not the less that we don't very well know what we are agitating for. We don't know in the least what administrative reform means: but it relieves our feelings. "Eheu!" is a ridiculous exclamation: but it calms the tragic sensations of an oppressed heart.

If we do not see the way to remedy, we recognise the difficulty; and that is something. We are in a great war, of which we are sick, but of which we cannot get rid: we are sick of it because we find that our rulers have made it a war, not for human freedom, as we desired, but against Russia, and for delusive treaties merely; and we cannot get rid of it, because the enemy, comprehending our statesmen, feels sure of baulking them, and, accordingly, laughs at our pacificating diplomacy. In this war we are isolated in the world; France disdains us for having become the vassals of the Emperor of the French; and that Emperor assassinated, England would have either to carry on war single-handed against Russia, or to join the French nation in an armed propaganda of republican opinions—an unpleasant prospect to the English aristocracy. Our brethren of America are not with us in the war; we lose their alliance in caressing the bloodstained hands of Louis Napoleon. Austria, "master of the situation," can be contemptuously neutral or safely defiant of us: a (probable) junction of Austria and Prussia—all Germany—against Louis Napoleon, rendering his alliance something worse than worthless to us. Meanwhile, carrying on this vast war, from which we expect no territorial advantages for ourselves, and no better readjustment of the map of Europe for purposes of permanent peace, we find our prestige as a potent people disappearing. Our aristocracy, worn out, are derided by ourselves: and we, ourselves, are in turn the jest of Europe, for our delusions about the war, our faith in an imbecile Parliament, our reliance on changes of old Ministers, our affectionate reception of the hero of the *coup d'état*, and, generally, for our chaotic conduct in dealing with political confusion. We are a failure in the war, in everything but fighting, which is but a part of military work: and we are compared to the bull-dog—a highly admirable animal, in sticking to the enemy,

but ludicrously incapable of everything but the stupid rush and the blind bite. Our fleets are sailing about in idle grandeur, and at an expense which proves that we are a great people: but they can do nothing. Our army, foiled at Sebastopol, is about to take a tour in Asia: our War Department thinks, perhaps, that a Xenophon may turn up in the compelled retreat: and a man is so much wanted that it would be worth the sacrifice of any army to get at him. We have a summer before us, of enormous waste of life and wealth, doubtful glories,—and no results. And the winter before us is worse. The weather-wise augur badly from the spring; and certain it is, that unless we have a very prodigious harvest, wheat will be at 150s.:—that, if we have a bad harvest, we shall have something like a famine. Agitation going on, our governing class more and more exposing their utter destitution of governing power, our nationality more and more disappearing as we subside into an imperial province under the French Lower Empire, there would come, in such a winter, a political spirit answering to the old Chartism that dates from the days of over-population; and then—Insurrections—perhaps Revolution. Not to mention several committees to inquire, &c.

Parliament, already, is not leaving it altogether to the City men, who spare an hour a day from their avocations to save the country, to avert the Fate whose shadow is over us. Lord Ellenborough, a nobleman of Roman behaviour, is to move a vote of censure on the Government; and such a thing is possible as the House of Lords, not less demented than the rest of us, aiding in a movement against their own order. If Lord Ellenborough succeed, and Mr. Layard, a gentleman of Greek acuteness, obtain subsequently, in the Commons, a partial success for a similar motion, Lord Palmerston would resign; and then? We should get, *plus* Ellenborough, the same Derby Government which we laughed out of office, in a quiet era, two years ago. They would do a little at administrative reform: but they could not alter the circumstances of the world—they would continue a statesman's war, and be beaten by the Russians, who are the cleverest statesmen. The nobleman of Roman behaviour might take a Roman view, and lift us into sight of a future worth fighting for. Forcing the small minds of the French Emperor and of his own chief into a grand conception, he might say, Let France and England go forth and conquer: he might revolutionise Germany, unite Italy, restore Poland, convulse Asia, annihilate Czarism, and insist on there being but two powers in Europe—London and Paris. A few words, and a few more millions, would suffice to arm mankind against the despotisms that are diplomatizing us. Then, if we were still to have a long war, we might be content: this generation would have done something. But a nobleman of Roman behaviour—who is sixty-six years of age—will soon be red-taped round about him: and under the despairing influences of a governing caste, which is likewise worn out, he will conduct the war with the impotent politeness expected in these days from a Minister. When he dies, we shall have some other War Minister, a little older; or, if Lord Derby is thrown out, we shall have Russell, or perhaps Palmerston again;—still wanting revolution, still we shall but beseech the Queen for a change. Layard may get in; Lowe, too; nay, Laing; even Lindsay:—and when we have got for them 5000*l.* a year each, our changes will be completed. That is our revolution; leave the system; House of Peers; aristocratic House of Commons; governing class; and put in a man after our heart, who is sure to be put down when he is caught in. And no greater change seems possible, if we are to confine ourselves to change, for, however we may abuse the old lords, there are no young lords of any ability coming up, and our new agitation as yet supplies no great man to wield it—no Cobden, no Bright.

The best hope that springs out of the administrative reform movement is, that it will gradually and, best, imperceptibly become a parliamentary reform movement. Certainly, it is not our conclusion that the country is to be put upright again in Europe by infusing more into the House of Commons of the hapless metropolitan member element:—the coming man will not come out of a pot-house. But were a cry now raised for large extension of the suffrage, it would have more meaning and more philosophy than that too often imbecile cry has previously had. As these middle-class meetings go on, it will be seen that our Government is not to be nationalised but by an utter sweep of the aristocratic system, and that the middle-class will seek in vain to get power from the aristocracy, except upon the condition of sharing it with the people, and with those men who would depend upon the people—the adventurers, landless but brainful, who thrive in revolution. And that cry of Reform the Parliament, so raised, would mean Revolution,—the Whigs then would gather in among the Tories—the "order" would stand by itself, in

resistance. With wheat at 150s., a few orators and writers, of power and point, could then do a good deal with the English people.

Woe be to the men who, conscious of this dark future, still cultivate their conceit and bask back from guiding the present. In the political position, with these prospects, the English nation has a right to the service of the men to whom she gave power for some higher purpose than the debate of crotchets. There are two men in the House of Commons of pre-eminent genius and of lofty public virtue, who belong to the country and not to the caste, but who are still inactive. We want leaders in this movement to give it shape, to use its power, to make it patriotic. Why is it that Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright do not head us? They wish to control the war. Well: if they will lead us, we will give them power. Heading this agitation, they would be the Government in six months. But we fear the appeal is in vain. Then, the next best thing to a great man, is a great personage; and we would say to the Queen, were we right honourable men,—Your Majesty, your reign has been so calm in constitutional routine, that you forget your hereditary powers to save your subjects. Your nobles are ruining us, anarchy is impending, and we pray your Majesty to nationalise the nation by anticipating, as your grandfather and your uncles on different occasions anticipated, the votes of the Commons and the Lords, and choosing a Ministry of your own. We prefer your Majesty to Louis Napoleon, as our own Sovereign; and we pray of you to put aside his Proconsuls, the Palmerstons, Malmesburys, and Russells; and bring into your councils honest, independent, intellectual Englishmen, who will serve you and England as your Majesty may determine.

That appeal cannot be heard. Therefore, without consternation, we await the winter. It is not the particular business of the *Leader* to elect revolution.

NON-ELECTOR.

"THE STRANGER" IN PARLIAMENT.

[The responsibility of the Editor in regard to these contributions is limited to the act of giving them publicity. The opinions expressed are those of the writer: both the *Leader* and "The Stranger" benefit by the freedom which is left to his pen and discretion.]

Why was Mr. Disraeli in so rapacious a hurry for "papers?" You would have thought, on Monday, when he was in such a fuss about them that he asked his question before Lord Palmerston had got into the House, and so brought up Sir George Grey, who naturally knew nothing about the matter, that human affairs were to turn upon those precious protocols:—and the House thought so too, for when Mr. Disraeli, on Sir George's helpless answer, intimated that if he didn't hear of them next day he'd take the sense of the House on the subject, the poor, dull, honourable members cheered. Well, there the papers are now—one of the customary (gratis) Government contributions to the *Retrospective Review*—capitally cooked, admirably insignificant, carefully inconclusive, and not telling us of anything that has happened within the last twenty days: and what is Mr. Disraeli the better for them? We are in the same position as before: there are what Mr. Bright calls "strong rumours" from Paris; as strong rumours from Vienna: diplomacy is undoubtedly still in the ascendant: but Parliament is not in the least aware of what is to become of us under the auspices of the couple of desperadoes, Napoleon and his Viceroy Palmerston, who have now taken Europe in hand. The two views taken of the facts confirmed by the papers, one view being that there ought never to have been any Conference, and the other that the Conference ought not to have been broken up, could have been taken, and were taken, before the Foreign Office's translator sufficiently recovered from his dyspepsia to oblige the British Empire with these protocols; and though Lord Grey (followed by Mr. Milner Gibson, an honorary member of the Peace Society) has herein obtained some official basis for the speech he is going to make on the 21st for the purpose of convincing the growing Peace-at-any-price party that he is the man for Premier, yet the country gains nothing by the long postponement of the amusement derivable from a discussion of the Vienna business. Mr. Bright is sensitively anxious, with all his eagerness for a say on the new aspect of affairs, not to risk the possible peace by inducing any premature Parliamentary rhetoric:—patriotically he consents to adopt Palmerston's suggestion that the House of Commons should not interfere until its interference is palpably of no

avail; and Mr. Disraeli, on the other hand, is silent because, as negotiations are still going on, and as Lord Derby is to come in whether there is peace or war, he would prefer to take the Government with all this difficulty at an end. Lord Ellenborough's motion, on Monday next, does not deal at all, necessarily, with the policy of the war, or with the diplomacy: his question turns on the maladministration of the war; and the answer to him will come, not from Lord Clarendon, but from Lord Panmure; and the puzzled Tory Peers—chiefly puzzled because they find Lord Derby, their only possible chief, thinking a good deal more of De Clare than of Downing-street—will have to decide whether or not they will carry a crisis motion upon evidence which has no relation to more important matters than the gossip of the Sebastopol Committee. Mr. Layard's resolutions also are irrespective of the diplomacy of the question: they, like Lord Ellenborough, assume that the diplomacy is a delusion, that the war must go on; and these gentlemen would not take the trouble to condemn the past of the war if they did not conceive that their declamation would procure some guarantee for better arrangements in the future. Lord Ellenborough wants to show what a prodigious War Minister he would make; and as he is coming in, there is some public importance in his private display. But what does Mr. Layard mean? As a member of the Sebastopol Committee, he would have done better if he had suppressed his individuality until that committee had made a collective report:—by anticipating the committee and passing sentence, in advance, upon the military system, he reverts to the position he occupied two months ago, and thus, very innocently, confirms what he was told when he was asking for the committee—that the committee was of no use. This impatience of character produces a bad impression; and the dispute he has had with Lord Palmerston appears to indicate that there is as much spite as principle in his public conduct. What does he gain by declining the day Lord Palmerston offered him? He vexed Lord Palmerston, who wanted to get the double fuss of the two Houses over on Monday night; and so far Mr. Layard raises "a laugh" at the balked Premier. And you could see Mr. Layard enjoyed that on Thursday: he was as gleeful as a boy when he sat down, after bewildering the then sleepy Premier with his refusal to take the Monday. That is a small triumph, however: if his object is to damage Palmerston, he would have destroyed that Lord's prestige by showing Europe that Lords and Commons were talking no confidence on the very same night. Mr. Layard is the *savant* strayed into politics; very ignorant and innocent yet; and skittishly disinclined to be broken in: so that if the City men put him in the respectable gig they are substituting for the state coach, let them look out.

It would not take much to break up these old Whigs; they get more ludicrous every day; they are only allowed to live because Lord Derby is looking after the Derby, and because the Administrative Reformers of the House of Commons are not eager to do Lord Derby's work for him. They merely get on, keeping their own hacks together, on sham rumours; that their War Department organisation is the all possible; that they were indignant with Drouyn de Lhuys's small terms; that there is a tremendous summer campaign in the Crimea all but ready; that Palmerston is urging the Emperor to raise the cry of Poland; that there is to be a good Reform Bill next session; that the Foreign Legion is to be brought about after all; that Austria is being managed; and so on. But, meanwhile, it is terrible in Parliament. Take Vernon Smith's statesmanship on Thursday night on Sir Erskine Perry's wise suggestions in respect to the Indian army:—people knew so well, so instinctively, the man was not worth listening to, that not fifty members were present: and the fifty members found it a mistake to wait on that *ci-devant jeune homme* while he was trying to show how well some mindless and routine clerk had crammed him. But take, as a better instance of the tone of this Government, Lord John on the same night with the new Victoria Constitution Bill. He was nudged up at midnight when his turn came to make his motion, and he made it with the listlessness with which Brotherton would carry a turnpike bill—this

Victoria Bill being a measure that is exciting something like civil war in the greatest of English colonies. Mr. Lowe was there, happily released from the Whigs, to expose them; and he told the House what the bill was, and startled them, as England is since startled, in showing the monstrous blunder the new Colonial Secretary was about to accomplish. Lord John's vexed reply to the sudden explosion was painfully silly: he began to lecture Mr. Lowe as to the state of matters in the colony, and to put him right as to facts,—for, though Lord John had been at Vienna so long, and Mr. Lowe is notoriously the Australian authority in Parliament, these Parliamentary nobles have a trick of assuming superior knowledge. Mr. G. Butt told Lord John the reply was no answer whatever, but it was too late to pursue the exposure: so Lord John got his bill in—and himself into a scrape, which will destroy his departmental reputation for this session, and supply new proof to our Colonial fellow-subjects of the exquisiteness of the system under which we are all governed. Sir George Grey's answer to Mr. Disraeli, on Monday, likewise exemplifies the notion these squires and lords have of Government, and the further no-explanation with which Lord Palmerston, having hobbled into the House, followed up Sir George Grey's negatives, that the papers had not been produced, because the polyglot clerk had taken to his bed, suggests the insolent insouciance with which the Downing-street caste views the British efforts to get news of Great Britain.

The Premier's adroitness, not foreseeing that he was to be foiled, in attempting to affix Mr. Layard to a day, was matched by the possible cunning which he last night developed in creating an opportunity of forestalling the Lords' debate next Monday by an explanation as to the changes determined on in the War-offices. But the cunning was too palpable. That unhappy Major Reed, so ostentatiously an intellectual likeness to Mr. Bright, was too obviously got up, if not put up, to provoke the candour and lead to the explanations; and Mr. Disraeli's sneer that Lord Palmerston had drawn up the Major's motion, and disguised his hand by the bad grammar, tickled the conscious House in a way to indicate that the hero of the Honourable Artillery Company was dreadfully found out. The conspiracy—and even Mr. Fitzstephen French was suspected because he abused Major Reed for an assumption of too leading a position—suggested a morale which displeased every one. Ministerialists included: and observing the fact that Lord Palmerston was very coldly listened to, while announcing his Administrative Reform, and that Mr. Disraeli was loudly heard in pointing out that the reform did not go far enough, it is a safe assumption that the Palmerston Government, having been precipitated into making its bid for popularity, is all the worse for the effort. On the other hand, Mr. Disraeli spoke so keenly in his old style, of ruthless banter and malicious innuendo, that for the first time these two years one began again to believe in him as a Parliamentary personage.

Parliament, meanwhile, drifts. On Opera nights it stays away; on Tuesday making no House; and on Thursday taking advantage of *Il Trovatore* to avoid Young India, which was rampant on the motion of the shrewd and sagacious, but not very vigorous or very effective, Sir Erskine Perry:—Young India including some of the cleverest young men in the House,—Goderich, Danby Seymour, Otway,—but also some decided bores, such as the overwhelmingly eloquent J. Phillimore, and all of them with too great a tendency to set-orations and to quote Mr. Burke. But when the House must be in the House, having no other place to go to, it either cants or twaddles. Last week the cant was about Maynooth—sustained, slightly, in the explanations last night, as to the Pope's editorship of the Commission's report; this week the Wednesday twaddle was on Deceased Wives' Sisters—on Back Parlour legislation. Talking in the centre of a city which contains fifty thousand "unfortunates," honourable gentleman after honourable gentleman implored Parliament not to pass a measure which would make the home of Mary Anne, the sister, uncomfortable to Jane, the wife; and the purity of the domestic life of the country was enormously talked of, with considerable abuse of the Mormons, Mr. Heywood, who held the bill, being somewhat sneered at as leading us all to polygamy, to which Mr. Roundell Palmer, followed by Mr. Gladstone, objects with a fervour not complimentary to the sex. As Mr. Cobden said of the debate, so crammed with casuistry, so theological, so feeble-minded, it reminded him of the Byzantines, who were rhetorically engaged while the Turk was mounting their walls; and it was, indeed, melancholy to see Mr. Gladstone so sinking the statesman in reminiscences of that style of argument which he obtained when, in his youth, he was being educated for a bishopric. But though the House of Commons is wrong to trouble itself with these matters, or rather to give so much time to them, the country has reason to be proud of the high intellectual powers developed in such debates by the House. Mr. Palmer's speech was an essay delightful to listen to from that perfect speaker, and most elaborately

and ingeniously strong on that side. Mr. Lowe's reply to it, less well spoken, was not less masterly for its resources of quick logic, its vigorous illustrations, and the perfect style. Mr. Gladstone defended his friend with what Mr. Cobden called splendid fallacies: refining upon Mr. Palmer's ingenuity, minutely searching out the weak places in Mr. Lowe's argument, threading in his own original views, and gratifying the House every now and then with some burst of mystically ecclesiastical eloquence; on the whole, delivering in half an hour of rapid and vehement energy a speech that would have been more appropriate in the Jerusalem Chamber, but still such a speech as no other man in the country could contribute to such a controversy. Mr. Cobden did not sink below the high standard of the debate; in simple, but still elegant and forcible language he demolished Mr. Gladstone in twenty minutes, and sat down amid great cheering—what he is not used to there.

Saturday Morning.

"A STRANGER."

Open Council.

[IN THIS DEPARTMENT, AS ALL OPINIONS, HOWEVER EXTREME, ARE ALLOWED AN EXPRESSION, THE EDITOR NECESSARILY HOLDS HIMSELF RESPONSIBLE FOR NONE.]

There is no learned man but will confess he has much profited by reading controversies, his senses awakened, and his judgment sharpened. If, then, it be profitable for him to read, why should it not, at least, be tolerable for his adversary to write.—MILTON

SHOT-PROOF FLOATING BATTERIES.

(To the Editor of the Leader.)

Sir,—I cannot longer resist what I conceive to have become an imperative duty, in requesting a place in your columns for some explanations in reference, if not in express reply, to the inquiry which has engaged the attention of the legislature, as to who is the designer of the new floating batteries. Lord Panmure was "unable to say who was the projector of them."

It was my destiny for some years, terminating in the month of May, 1828, when the decease of the late Sir William Congreve took place, to fill the situation of his private secretary. Sir William, under medical advice, had quitted England for the south of France in June, 1827, his death occurring at Toulouse.

During the interval, I was necessarily in correspondence with him from London, among other duties confided to me being the placing in the hands of the printer the matter for a new edition of Sir W. Congreve's work on Naval Ordnance, the supplemental portion of which, transmitted to me from France, comprised among the rest a new section of the Treatise, with detailed explanations of a design for the construction of "shot-proof floating batteries," accompanied by the requisite drawings for the engraver. It will be evident that my explanations refer to, as I believe, Sir W. Congreve's original suggestion and matured plan for this description of floating battery, any close comparison of which with those now constructed I am unable to make. I well remember, however, that his idea was that the sides of his proposed floating batteries should be rendered indestructible by a covering of iron, the thickness of which he exactly calculated, and recommended should be in the form of *panels and stiles*, to ensure, probably, the greatest resistance with the least weight.

I am chiefly desirous in this letter to mention that, being at the period in question, in pursuance of my duties, in occasional communication with the late Admiral Sir George Cockburn, a personal friend of Sir W. Congreve, he expressed a wish to see the plans, which were accordingly transmitted to the Admiralty, but never were returned to my hands. Sir W. Congreve's decease speedily following, the enlarged and amended copy for the intended new edition of the work on naval ordnance passed into the hands of a near relation of the author, but whether it has been published or not I am not aware.

Having, by your kind permission, in justice to the fame of the late Sir W. Congreve, made public the circumstance of my communication to the Admiralty of his suggestion and designs for these batteries—now more than twenty-five years since—I beg to subscribe myself,

Sir, your obliged and obedient servant,

ROBERT DRAKE.

5, Hatcham-terrace, Old Kent-road, May 9, 1855.

CREMORNE.—The coming season here appears likely to bring in its course abundance of the annual festival which the proprietor of these gardens is now the better able to undertake on account of having obtained the extensive adjoining Ashburnham grounds. Amongst the most important engagements entered into may be mentioned the South London Floricultural Meetings, and the Licensed Victuallers' School Dinner. For celebrating important events, the Minarets of the Temple of Mahomet, now near completion, will be admirably adapted, as their illuminations will be seen for many miles round.

Literature.

Critics are not the legislators, but the judges and police of literature. They do not make laws—they interpret and try to enforce them.—*Edinburgh Review*.

THE opening article of the *North British Review* extends to no less than seventy-two pages, not one of which will be skipped by a reader who glances at the first. It is a biography of "Sir Walter Raleigh," an eloquent, we may almost say a passionate defence of him, and that too "on the Bible method," which will make many a reader stare, but which the writer very seriously attempts:—

We merely take the broad facts of the story from documents open to all, and comment on them as we should wish our own life to be commented on.

But we do so on a method which we cannot give up; and that is the Bible method. We say boldly, that historians have hitherto failed in understanding not only Raleigh, Elizabeth, but nine-tenths of the persons and facts in his day, because they will not judge them by the canons which the Bible lays down.

This, indeed, seems to him the only way out of the difficulty.

"Judged as the Bible taught our Puritan forefathers to judge every man, the character is intelligible enough; tragic, but noble and triumphant: judged as men have been judged in history for the last hundred years, by hardly any canon save those of the private judgment, which philosophic cant, maudlin sentimentality, or fear of public opinion, may happen to have begotten, the man is a phenomenon, only less confused, abnormal, suspicious than his biographers' notions about him."

Whether the fault lie in the method or in the writer we will not determine, but the net result is that a biography of RALEIGH is presented to us which is very interesting and altogether incredible. We read, but it is as if we read a novel. We have no belief in the reality of the picture thus painted. It reads as if originally intended for an episode in *Westward-Ho!* (for no sagacious reader will fail to discern its authorship)—and we would rather have read it there than in the pages of a Review. While entering this protest, however, let us urge every one to get the Review for the sake of this article. We cannot indeed commend the Review as usual. This number is very inferior to the average. We know how many difficulties beset an editor, how hard a task it is to produce even an average number when the standard is high, as in the present case; but if critics did not occasionally apply their caution, the public would infallibly soon apply one less agreeable.

Appropos of the difficulty of producing a succession of good numbers, we may mention that another Review is about to be started to try that question, and to render it more difficult for others. It is to be called the *National Review*. The prospectus is as vague as prospectuses usually are, and we cannot therefore pretend to say whether the Review will fill any unoccupied place; the first number will show this, and show whether the "obvious void" was felt in the minds of any class—except its projectors.

There is nothing in the new number of *La Revue des Deux Mondes* which tempts us into comment, although there are two or three papers which may tempt the reader. For instance, any one not wholly fatigued with the war question, may read XAVIER RAYMOND's clear and candid summary of military and diplomatic operations, *Une Armée de Guerre et de Diplomatie*, especially for its defence of the Turks, whom it praises for sobriety, patience, courage, truth, dignity, gratitude, and for tolerance superior to that of any European nation. This claim of tolerance M. RAYMOND knows will be paradoxical, but history is ready to prove—not, as he says, that it is no paradox, for it is one, but—that the paradox is a truth. "Of all European states," he says, "the Ottoman Empire is the only one which for centuries respected the various religions opposed to its own, and permitted them to exercise their rites within its states. Jews, Christians, Armenians, Yezedis, Druses, Ansaries, Greeks, or Latins—all have been able to live and maintain themselves under the empire of the Turks." We are not disposed to enter on this historical question, but rather to follow our habitual vein of commenting on detached points, and say a word on the much-abused error respecting paradoxes.

"I will prove this to be no paradox" is a perpetually recurring phrase. Good sir, all the proof in the world, piled demonstration deep, like Pelion on Ossa, will do nothing of the kind. A paradox is a paradox, and cannot be proved to be no paradox until it has outlived this its larval condition, and wings its way over our heads as a perfected and familiar truth. You may prove that a paradox is not an error, but you cannot prove it to be no paradox; it may cease to be a paradox in ceasing to clash with your views, but it is you who change your position with regard to it. For what is a paradox? It is a *doğa*, or opinion, which is *rapa*, in contrast with, your *doğa*. You have your doxies in which you devoutly believe; and as these doxies have full privilege of ranging amid unmitigated nonsense, a privilege of which they avail themselves profusely, you see how easily it may occur that my more sedate and circumspect doxies should hold aloof from, and somewhat haughtily contradict, your doxies. Every such contradiction is to you a paradox. It ceases only when the contradiction ceases; but although you may remove a contradiction, you cannot prove it to be no contradiction. What is true of the individual opinion is true of current opinions. Every new opinion is a paradox and must remain such until it has familiarised itself so far with the opinions current among the crowd as to lose its gloss and novelty and become a truism or a falsism.

It would hardly be worth pausing to point out such an error, were not the error general even among writers usually accurate. In leisure moments it is always useful to note down a popular error; one knows not how many readers may be interested. Who knows what will not interest some readers? Man is intellectually omnivorous; otherwise what a dismal world for dunces, what a poor chance for maniacs! The advertising columns, read by this light, are full of profound philosophy; and as JEAN PAUL says of his *Quintus Fixlein*, who was engaged in a compilation of errors of the press, "he was of opinion that great moral conclusions were to be drawn from these errata, and advised the reader to draw them," so say we of the advertisements. Here is one, for example, cut from the *Athenæum*:—

EXTRAORDINARY DISCOVERIES.—THE GRAND SECRET; or, Knowledge Purified from Doubt and Error; Bible Truth vindicated; Scientific Fallacies exposed; Infidelity disarmed.—The relation of the Nile to the Natural History of Light; the proof from it that YELLOW RAYS ONLY are derived from the Sun, &c. &c., will be found of an astounding nature. 1s. Houlston and Stoneman, Paternoster-row.

This is a text on which we could preach for an hour (suppress the rising terror, we will not do so), pointing out the nature of the mind exhibited in this noble incoherence of ideas, and this startling *rapprochement* of infidelity disarmed by the yellow rays of the sun. But we follow FIXLEIN, and advise the reader to draw the moral for himself.

Besides this paper on the war, the *Revue* has a survey of French literature under the monarchy of July, written by GUSTAVE PLANCHE in his accustomed style of intense arrogance and acerbity; and a paper on the proposed canal from Alexandria to Suez, by M. TALABOT. The PRINCE DE LA MOSKOWA narrates the historical episode of the siege of Valenciennes in the seventeenth century; and M. AMPÈRE discourses of WASHINGTON with that ingenious fertility and pliancy of allusion by which Roman Imperialism is tempered. To every DOMITIAN there is a TACITUS. Referring to the six months' absolute command of the military forces granted to WASHINGTON, M. AMPÈRE observes, "The danger of a military dictatorship was not great with a man who wrote to Congress, 'Far from considering myself released by this mark of confidence from every civil obligation, I shall always remember that the sword, to which we have appealed only in the last extremity for the defence of our liberties, must be laid down as soon as ever those liberties shall be firmly established.' Washington was one of those men who, after having made such promises, keep them."

The *Revue* is certainly comprehensive enough in its hospitality. After the DUC D'AUMALE we have the PRINCE DE LA MOSKOWA; after the son of LOUIS PHILIPPE, the son of NEX, and the devoted adherent of the Empire. But the PRINCE DE LA MOSKOWA dispenses with the signature of V. DE MARS, whose interesting series of papers on the Zouaves and the Chasseurs is about to be published in a handsome volume, without any author's name.

CONGREVE'S LECTURES ON THE ROMAN EMPIRE OF THE WEST.

The Roman Empire of the West. Four Lectures delivered at the Philosophical Institution, Edinburgh, February, 1855. By Richard Congreve, M.A. Late Fellow and Tutor of Wadham College, Oxford. John W. Parker.

THESE Lectures contain a vigorous and lucid summary of the history of the Western Empire, but with a startling moral, and a still more startling application of that moral.

We are quite prepared to hear that the autocracy of Augustus was a necessity to a city torn by factions and a heterogeneous and disorganised empire. This necessity arose from the vices of the republicans, not from the republican constitution; for had all the governors of provinces been Ciceros, the provinces could have desired nothing better except freedom. But it had arisen; and we only beg a little sympathy for those who, in their loyalty to a principle, refuse to accept the "judgement of events," for of such are the liberators of nations. No doubt, too, in studying Roman history, we have looked too exclusively to the Republic and too little to the vast civilisation of the Empire, which, we are apt to forget, lasted almost as long as the Republic, and as long, to measure by our own history, as from the middle of the reign of Edward III. to the present day; and which, moreover, left to the world great legacies of law, international unity, and municipal organisation, inherited by itself mainly from its predecessor. So far we go with Mr. Congreve, and we confess that his Lectures excite in us a desire to study more intimately the Imperial system. But we pause when he speaks of the government of the Cæsars in language of enthusiastic approbation; and we start back when he tells us that it is the true type of government for all the kingdoms of Europe at the present day.

Does Mr. Congreve attempt to change the picture drawn by Tacitus, Suetonius, and Juvenal? Does he deny the reigns of terror and suspicion, the frantic excesses of tyranny, the hideous orgies of the palace, the domination of freedmen and spies, the Messalinas and Locustas, the abysmal corruption of society, the decimation of talent and merit, the utter degradation of intellect and literature, the paralysis of art and even of invention, the persecution of Christianity and philosophy, the annihilation of patriotism and political virtue, the sure decay of vitality and the power of self-defence, the maddening effect of despotism on the despot, or the condition of a world governed by a madman? He does not. He sometimes gives the facts rather a new colour. He represents the insane cruelties of Caligula to the population immediately around him as springing in some degree from a grand Imperial idea of vindicating the cause of nations against Rome. He delicately designates as a financial motive the thirst of money for his mad lusts which led Caracalla to force all the world to buy with increased taxes the worthless title of Roman citizen. But he leaves Nero as he was when

he tells you that St. Paul's precept as to submission was not general, but a special tribute to the comparative beneficence of the government of Nero.

The provinces, no doubt, were far better off under the lieutenants of the Emperor than under the senatorial accomplices of Verres. But were they better off than they would have been under a free national government? Was Athens under Nero as happy, we will not say as great, as Athens under Pericles? We must decide this before we can say whether the provincials could sincerely worship a monster of humanity as a God. Gibbon owns that his authorities are somewhat rhetorical. We have a record of the social state of Judea: and there we see taxes and tolls which made the name of publican an abomination, unjust judges, a soldiery which did violence, accused falsely, and were not content with their wages, a people of lazars and mendicants, ready to follow a teacher into the wilderness, not for his doctrine, but for a little bread; this people, goaded by insult and oppression into rebellion after rebellion, till they are massacred or banished, and their land made desolate. Trajan and the Antonines may have called governors to a severe account, but did Nero, Heliogabalus, or Didius Julianus? We know that a reform of the farmers-general was still necessary in the time of Antoninus Pius. And though Mr. Congreve tells us that the emperors never failed to exercise their veto on oppression throughout the empire, Juvenal qualifies this statement with his "*Exsul ab octava Marius bibit et fruitur Dis Iratis, at tu victrix provincia ploras*. Confiscations alone, without the plunder of provinces, would scarcely have sufficed for the delirium of imperial luxury, the insanities of imperial architecture, the largesses to the praetorians, the *panem et circenses* of the mob of Rome.

The last item of imperial expenditure gives Mr. Congreve a pretext for sanctifying as socialist, and contrasting with governments which are unable to cure strikes, the power which robbed of their harvests the industrious peasants of Libya and Egypt, to feed in perpetual idleness the population of the capital. It was a still more signal instance of socialistic tendencies to butcher provincial gladiators by thousands for the amusement of the same population. After this we are not surprised to see the title of "Imperial Socialism of France" given to a power which rose by an anti-socialist cry, and sent the Socialists to Cayenne.

It would be irrational to rejoice in the Empire merely because it degraded and butchered the aristocracy, as it is to approve the choice of such a monster as Marius as the leader of the popular party. The Empire degraded and butchered the aristocracy indeed, but in abolishing its political dignity, it did not abolish its social evils, or abate its selfish luxury. The Roman millionaires and slave-owners under a Trajan were as happy as the nobles of Versailles: under a Domitian they were panic-stricken and miserable; but they were never anything but slave-owners and millionaires. The proletariat, even by Mr. Congreve's showing, was not elevated; the class of freeholders did not revive. In nothing but *vengance* were the Cæsars the true heirs of the Græchi. Circumstances more than imperial edicts softened the condition of slavery, but half the population of the Empire still remained slaves. As to the armies, which with the nobles, the proletariat, and the slaves make up the picture of Roman society, who does not see that the loyalty and discipline of the troops on the frontier was a relic of the Republic, and that of the Empire came the turbulence and licence of the praetorians, and the utter decay of patriotism, and with it of military spirit, which gradually left civilisation a defenceless prey to the barbarians.

To speak briefly, if the government of the Cæsars was the best of governments, why did not the world improve under it? Why, in spite of the infusion of Christianity, did society, and its moral and material forces, perpetually decline?

The Roman Empire, however, was at all events a necessity, or nearly a necessity, of the particular case. It was a relief to the conquered; it was a retribution to the conquerors. It bound a harassed and discordant world together in the quiet of decay. But by what rule is the same remedy to be applied to us who have never been proscribed by a Sylla, or plundered by a Verres? "Because," says Mr. Congreve, "every society in which we find aggregated many smaller ones, of sufficient size themselves to be independent societies—to make any meaning clear, all such states as the larger kingdoms of modern Europe, with no exception as to our own country—are not fit subjects for the constitutional system." Great Britain then ought to change constitutions with St. Domingo, since the first falls within the definition of incapacity, and the second does not.

It is not the faint and false analogy offered by the nations of the United Kingdom to the nations of the Roman Empire that really actuates Mr. Congreve, as appears from what he says afterwards. It is the desire he has for a Dictator to give immediate effect to his theories, without the checks of a constitutional system, and carry us through what he calls our present transitional state to the new organisation of society based on industry—an industry which, in passing, we pray may be that of the brain as well as of the hand. A transition lasting from the battle of Actium till now, in spite of five centuries of the Western, and fourteen of the Eastern Empire, and plenty of despotism besides, begins to verge on the indefinite. But it is necessary, before instituting a "provisional" Dictatorship, to know exactly what the term is to be. It is necessary, in short, to know what this new organisation of society based on industry, and which we are to attain through military despotism, is, that all may recognise its advent. Otherwise the hour will strike, the sociologist, or the high priest of a new church of science will announce it, and the provisional Dictator will send him to be tried as a parricide before the tribunal of the Seine. Seated at Versailles or Windsor, with guards, lords in waiting, and an unlimited command of money, the provisional will have a strong tendency to become permanent in spite of science and of fate.

And this difficulty of deposition reminds us of the equal difficulty of the succession, which Mr. Congreve feels and tries in vain to surmount. The Roman monarchy, he truly observes, was not hereditary. It went in the family of the Cæsars, though not by direct descent, so long as that race remained. But afterwards it became elective, adoptive, insurrectionary as often as either, legitimate succession like that of Domitian and Commodus being the exception. Mr. Congreve seems to suggest that each monarch

might choose his successor among the members of his own family without regard to primogeniture. He must be sanguine if he expects any one family to produce in each generation a man fitted to be master of his kind. But even if it were so, how often would the merit of the Germanicus or Britannicus prevail against the family intrigues of the Livias and Agrippinas? During the happy epoch from Nerva to Marcus Antoninus the emperors were adoptive; but to resort to adoption, a king must be without an heir, which was more likely to happen with Roman morality than with ours. As to election, it is an intelligible principle, but it is incompatible with absolutism. Absolutism has an invincible tendency to found a dynasty by the aid of its praetorians. Let us take warning from the Imperial Socialism of France. The tendency to hereditary succession was always visible even in the Roman Empire; and this, like all other corrupt tendencies, would be aggravated in a modern empire by association and connexion with its fellows. It is very important to remember that the Roman Empire stood alone.

In vain does Mr. Congreve hope to correct political despotism by instituting an independent spiritual power, and dividing the functions of God and the Executive, which were combined in Nero. As to priesthooths, we see how far they are correctives of despotism. As to science and opinion, to advance and prevail they must have free utterance and free discussion, which will often shake the throne, and which he who has the power of the sword may stop, by applying it to the larynx. Mr. Congreve excuses some of the persecutions of the early Christians, on the ground that the emperors regarded Christianity as mutiny. But are not the simplest principles of morality and humanity a mutiny against Nero? Let us appeal once more to the example of France, where the Dictator, fresh upon his throne, destroys the independence of the Academy, which even legitimate despotism treated with chivalrous respect. Insurrections of opinion are the most dangerous of all insurrections; but they will be put down by the praetorians, whom opinion does not reach so long as they are supplied with champagne and sausages, and who are therefore "the true nobility of France."

To demand a dictator is, in a modest way, to demand that your own opinions shall be absolute. The Russian and Austrian autocracies, the legitimate succession having been broken in both, answer, so far as we can see, to Mr. Congreve's idea of the true type of government; but probably he would reject them both, as he would have rejected Charles the First, though with an independent spiritual power in the shape of Laud. We have all dreamed of the government of an allwise despot, that is, of a despot who agrees in all things with ourselves. But Providence, *curis acuenis mortalia corda*, has willed that the allwise man shall not be found, and that mankind shall not dispense themselves from political responsibility and political action. When they try to do so, they are smitten with the decrepitude of Rome and Paraguay.

We hope we have not in any respect misunderstood Mr. Congreve. From the nature of his work he is led to throw out his strong remarks rather loosely, as though to see what you will make of them. We are always grateful for a strong remark when it comes from a man of Mr. Congreve's intellect, and we have made the best we could of those he has given us. He will see that his book, if not true, ought to be answered without other compliments than those which his great ability and courageous honesty demand. It treats of no speculative or antiquarian theme. Imperialism is fast becoming the practical creed of many who once owned a better faith. Disgusted, and justly disgusted with the inefficiency of our existing system, they hasten to place in the hands of a single man, selected they know not how, the power which no single man is fit to hold, and which no wise and good man would desire to hold—a power which a Louis Napoleon eagerly grasps, which a Cromwell constantly struggled to resign.

RHYMES AND VERSES.

The Golden Age, and other Poems. By Alexander Gouge.
Lays and Lyrics. By C. Rae Brown.
Blanche de Bourbon. By W. H. Jones.
Abdul Medjid, and other Poems. By H. B. Macdonald.
Ex Erebo. By H. G. Keene.

A. Hall, Virtue, and Co.
A. Hall, Virtue, and Co.
Hookham and Sons.
Groombridge and Sons.
W. Blackwood and Sons.

VOLUMES of verse, not so remarkable as to demand separate or instant attention, nor so destitute of any plea, good or bad, as to fall an early and defenceless prey to the waste-paper basket, constantly accumulate on our table; and from time to time we are moved by conscience and the want of elbow-room, to dispose of these volumes in a batch. With one exception, the batch to be cleared away this week falls considerably short of the average merit. Mr. Alexander Gouge, who dedicates his *Golden Age, and other Poems*, to the Earl of Carlisle, tells us, in his preface—which here and there brings to mind the preface to *Fernilian*—that "the *Golden Age*, placed first on the list, as being the most classical theme and the longest (though it may probably prove the least popular) piece of the whole, is doubtless a more suitable subject for an Epic Poem;" but that "it was foreign to his purpose to mould it into that shape." This, of course, silences all cavil in the matter. Taking Mr. Gouge's kindly hint about the *Golden Age*, we skip that poem, and come at the minor pieces, for which, if we understand him aright, he anticipates comparative popularity. Here are some eventually popular verses, written by Mr. Gouge in a young lady's album "On her leaving S—":—

Sweet maid! Ere yet our loss we grieve—
Our lovely guest resign,—
Oh! that I could a garland weave
To deck a brow like thine!
I would not aim (my skill above)
To paint thy gentle eye,
Lit up with genius, beaming love,
And virgin modesty—
Thy beauty—sweet as Summer's rose—
With native grace refined—
Thy woman's heart—the mien that glows,
The Index of the Mind.—

Youth is a gay and gilded bark
On Time's far-rolling sea;
There, Scylla's rocks loom, dire and dark,
Charybdis' gulfs, a-lee!

Oh! may'st thou, wafted o'er the Main,
(Life's checker'd Voyage past,
Each danger 'scaped) in safety gain
Heaven's blissful Port at last!

Adieu! The parting hour is near—
Our interview is o'er—
And the friends that hail'd thy coming here
May greet thee never more!

But thy vision'd form, in future years,
'Mid darkness and decays,
Shall cheer our sight, through smiles and tears,
Like "The Light of Other Days!"

Mr. H. B. Macdonald's *Abdul Medjid* was written, the preface tells us, "a few months ago, at a period when the downfall of the Turkish Empire appeared an event of more absolute proximity than that to which the chances of war have now removed it;" and the author courageously proclaims himself "one of those who are of opinion that in this matter we are scarcely yet arrived at the beginning of the end." The profound originality of the poem may be imagined from this tremendous intimation.

Mr. C. R. Brown (*Lays and Lyrics*) launches without preface of any kind on a stream of metre along which he floats complacently enough. There is an intolerable—because intolerant—air about this gentleman which completely steels us against his tacit and probably unconscious plea of youth. Of the individual Brown, indeed, we have nothing to say. An extract from his volume will save us the trouble. It is in his character of representative nuisance that he provokes criticism. We see in him the Brown who, to use one of his favourite metaphors, is the Dead Sea apple of life's vegetarian banquet, though without the tempting outside of that cindery fruit. He is the Brown who always leans against the mantelpiece at evening parties, and "surveys the giddy throng with feelings of scorn he does not care to hide." He is the Brown who is so terribly severe on Shams. He is the Brown who, ridiculously assuming that he is a poet, assumes, moreover, that which no real poet, in his bitterest sense of isolation, ever proclaimed or felt to be true—that the brilliant light of genius is needful to a perception of beauty, goodness, and truth. In fine, Brown, the abstract, who figures distastefully in most men's experience, is represented with dreadful truth by the concrete Brown, for whose verse we now bespeak attention:—

MR. BROWN ON A WATERFALL.

On the grassy bank
Of a nameless stream
I lay flat along;
The while mine ears drank
The murmuring music
Of its plaintive song.

Just above where I lay—
Beneath two willows,
Reclined on each other,
A leafy arcade—
In mimic billows
Rising, the waters played
Round some old black stones
At the back of a rock,
With low, gurgling moans;
Ere, divided they fell
Through the rocky drains,
In crystal chains,
With a tinkling sound—
Like the distant chiming
Of a village bell—
Into a pool;
A round little pool,
Dark, deep, and cool;
Where the sly little trout
Glides smoothly about,
Or, at times, with a bound—
Taking its aim well—
Bursts through a foam-bell
Above the water,
Bent upon slaughter;
Its victim, a fly,
That has dared to pry,
With inquisitive eye,
Into the pool.

Had not the author of *Blanche of Bourbon* anticipated us by describing that poem as a "feeble imitation" of Scott, we should have quoted a passage or two, in order to establish the accuracy of the definition. We let Mr. Jones off easily because, coming after Brown, his humility is affecting, and, better still, precise.

The gentleman whose verses constitute the overpowering minority, in this batch, of—at all events—good feeling, good sense, and good taste, is Mr. Keene; and his book, containing more than fifty pieces, of various length and unequal merit, is called *Ex Erebo*. Mr. Keene, placed by fortune in a lucrative office in India, still yearns for English skies, and breezes "pure though chill." A few of his poems we recognise for old acquaintances, first formed in *Blackwood*. We may here state that we have read his book through—a book of more than fifty detached pieces be it remembered—and have been frequently reminded of the calm flowing sweetness of *Attingham's* gentle muse. If Mr. Keene is unable to sustain the resemblance very long together, by the mere exercise of his own powers, he seldom loses the trace of kindred in his fine appreciation of minute beauties around him. Indeed, his forte is altogether the perceptive; accordingly his translations are, perhaps, the best things in his book. We select one, after *Browning*. There is all the tenderness, all the humanity of the original, and

there is, besides, something of its natural and winning grace. It is no slight addition to Mr. Keene's claim on our praise, that he should have preserved to us, with the full fresh flavour of the fruit, its delicate and evanescent bloom.

THE CRADLE.

Behold, dear friends, this pinnace light and frail
Timidly tempt the waves of life's rough sea,
The little passenger is young to sail
Alone—his earliest mariners be we.
Already have the waters made it float;
Calmly it shall preserve its life-long way,
If we, who watch the launching of the boat,
Seek by our songs to make its passage gay.

Already Fate has filled its canvas light,
Already Hope her brightest aspect wears,
And promises beneath a starlit night,
Calm seas for ever, soft and fragrant airs.
Away, away, birds of ill-omened note,
Love is the captain of our crew to-day,
Let us, who watch the launching of the boat,
Seek, by our songs, to make its passage gay.

They hang their garlands on the blessed mast,
And share the toils, Dione's love-led band;
We have made offering to the Sisters chaste,
And Friendship has the tiller in his hand;
Bacchus himself shall cheer us while aloft,
Invoking pleasure with a jocund lay,
Let us, who watch the launching of the boat,
Seek, by our songs, to make its passage gay.

Who is it comes to bid the vessel hail?
'Tis Disappointment; she makes Virtue blest,
And trusts that sacrifices may avail
To give this infant happiness, or rest;
While our prayers' echo dies on rocks remote,
Sure that the gods give ear, to whom we pray,
Let us, who see the launching of the boat,
Aid, by our songs, to make its passage gay.

BOOKS ON OUR TABLE.

- The Quarterly Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics.* Edited by J. J. Sylvester, M.A., &c., N. M. Ferrers, M.A., assisted by G. G. Stokes, M.A., &c., A. Cayley, M.A., &c., and M. Hermite. (No. 1.) John W. Parker and Son.
- Parisian Etiquette: a Guide to the Manners of French Society in Paris.* Translated from the French. John F. Shaw.
- The British Cavalry at Balaklava: Remarks in Reply to Lieutenant-General the Earl of Lucan's Speech in the House of Lords.* By a Cavalry Officer. Charles Evans.
- Printing: its Antecedents, Origin, History, and Results.* By Adam Stark. (The Traveller's Library, 82.) Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans.
- The Ferns of Great Britain and Ireland.* By Thomas Moore, F.L.S., edited by John Lindley, Ph.D., &c. Nature printed, by Henry Bradbury. (Parts 1 and 2.) Bradbury and Evans.
- The Rag-bag: a Collection of Epigrams.* By N. Parker Willis. Trübner and Co.
- Outdoors at Idlewild; or, the Shaping of a Home on the Banks of the Hudson.* By N. P. Willis. Trübner and Co.
- Beauties of Fanny Fern, with a Sketch of her Life and Writings.* Knight and Son.
- Poetical Works of Geoffrey Chaucer.* Edited by Robert Bell. Vol. 4. John W. Parker and Son.
- Jonas Clint: a Tale.* J. H. Parker.
- Ioan III.; or, a Day and Night in Russia: a Dramatic Sketch, in Five Acts.* By John Bell Sculptor. Chapman and Hall.
- The Sabbath; or, an Examination of the Six Texts commonly adduced from the New Testament in proof of a Christian Sabbath.* By a Layman. Vols. 1 and 2. Chapman and Hall.
- The Sabbath; or, an Inquiry into the Supposed Obligation of the Sabbath of the Old Testament.* By Sir William Domville, Bart. Chapman and Hall.
- The Royal Gallery of Art, Ancient and Modern: Engravings from the Private Collections of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Albert, and Heirlooms of the Crown at Windsor, Buckingham Palace, and Osborne.* Edited by St. C. Hall, F.S.A., &c. (Part 6.) P. and D. Colnaghi and Co.
- The Martins of Croi Martin.* By Charles Lever. (No. 6.) Chapman and Hall.
- Letter to Lord Brougham on the Question of Trusteeship in England.* By Le Chevalier de Chatelein. Hardwicke.
- Chambers's Journal of Popular Literature, Science, and Arts.* (Part 16.) W. and R. Chambers.
- The English Cyclopædia; a New Dictionary of Universal Knowledge, based on the "Penny Cyclopædia."* Conducted by Charles Knight. (Part 26.) Bradbury and Evans.
- The Newcomes.* Edited by Arthur Pendennis, Esq. (No. 20.) Bradbury and Evans.
- The Masonic Mirror: a Monthly Journal of Freemasonry, devoted to the Proceedings of Masonic Lodges, the Welfare of the Order, the Interests of its Charities, Literature, and News.* (No. 7.) Br. Barton.
- The Opitices: a Novel.* By the Author of "The Head of the Family," &c. (Cheap Edition, revised.) Chapman and Hall.
- The Castle of Ehrenstein: its Lords, Spiritual and Temporal; its Inhabitants, Earthly and Unearthly.* By G. P. R. James. (Parlour Library.) Thomas Hodgson.
- The Art-Journal—New Series: containing the Royal Gallery.* (No. 5.) Virtue and Co.
- Olympus.* Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.
- The Forger's Wife.* By John Lang. Ward and Lock.
- Sharpe's Road-book for the Rail; Western Division, including the Lines south of the Thames; and comprising the South-Western, South-Eastern, Brighton and South Coast, Great Western, North and South Wales, London and North-Western, and neighbouring Lines; upon a Scale of Ten Miles to the inch, with Notices of Towns, Villages, principal Seats, Historical Localities, Tunnels, Viaducts, and other objects of interest on the route.* David Bogue.
- The most Eminent Orators and Statesmen of Ancient and Modern Times; containing Sketches of their Lives, Specimens of their Eloquence, and an Estimate of their Genius.* By David A. Harsha. Trübner and Co.

The Arts.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

WE referred last week to the flagrant instances of injustice and incompetence which the arrangements of this year's Hanging Committee display in every part of the Exhibition; and we engaged at the earliest opportunity to enter into some detail in connexion with the placing of the pictures. The subject is of importance beyond the world of Art; for the bad hanging and the public dissatisfaction with the present display at the Academy, stand more nearly towards each other in the relation of cause and effect than might at first be imagined. It is very easy this year to see the mediocre pictures by men of no mark, and very hard—except in some half dozen cases—to see the fine pictures by men with reputations. When bad artists are well placed, who can expect that visitors, who want to see good pictures, should be pleased with the exhibition?

Take the instance of injustice to Mr. MILLAIS first, because it is the most remarkable of all. His noble picture of "The Rescue" is hung next to a doorpost—a bad place for an artist in any case; and a bad place also for the public in the case of Mr. MILLAIS. For, half of the spectators—who will crowd round his picture in spite of Academicians and critics—are exposed to be jostled incessantly by the persons passing in and out of the doorway. The excuse for causing this discomfort to the public, and inflicting this injustice on the artist, is the lamest that ever was made. Mr. MILLAIS has, it seems, been too daringly true to nature in painting the glare of the fire from which the children have been rescued. The red glow suffusing one-half of the composition would, it is said, be fatal to any conventionally-painted picture placed beside it, and could only be toned down to due Academic propriety by being set against a doorpost! Even if Mr. MILLAIS were not an associate-member of the Royal Academy, we should say this excuse was a bad one, because it implies that a picture is not to be judged, in the first place and before all things, by its truth to nature, but by its capacity for temporarily adapting itself to other pictures, which are themselves, being estimated by this conventional principle, as likely to be wrong as right. But Mr. MILLAIS is a Member of the Academy, and the body which has elected him has, by the act of election, bound itself to do him justice—bound itself to believe in and to vindicate the excellence of his pictures—bound itself to give them better places than the pictures of men who have not attained eminence enough in their profession to deserve election. Has the Academy acted up to this principle with Mr. MILLAIS? Let any one who thinks so go into the West Room, and look at two pictures, numbered 631 and 640, by two gentlemen, named respectively EARLES and GALE; and it will be found that these works, by painters out of the Academy, and little, if at all, known to the general public, occupy better places than the place accorded to "The Rescue." We might multiply instances—but these two are enough for the purpose. The plain truth of the case is, that Mr. MILLAIS has been too successful. He is a young man (which is in itself a fault in the eyes of a great many pompous old gentlemen)—he has made an immense reputation—and his pictures find eager purchasers at extraordinary prices. Criticism can't write him down, professional rivals can't talk him down. The last resource is to try a good, sturdy, uncompromising doorpost—to hang his picture in a bad light, next to a dingy bit of wood—and to make the admirers of his works as uncomfortable as possible, by exposing one half of them to be well jostled by the passers to and fro through a doorway. If Mr. MILLAIS had addressed himself to a class instead of to the whole public, this ingenious plan might have succeeded. But he has chosen a subject which interests everybody; he has treated it in a startlingly original way; he has painted the glare from a great fire, red-hot, scorching, dazzling, fearful as it really is; he has cast behind him all theatrical and academical conventionalities, has let Nature lead him, and has gone straight to the hearts of the people. The great doorpost conspiracy against him is consequently an utter failure. He has got the place of honour in the public estimation, in spite of the worst that the Academy could do to prevent him. If our readers doubt it, we recommend them to look at the faces of the spectators who stand in front of "The Rescue" the next time they go to the Royal Academy. Before that criticism on the picture, all other criticisms must retire into the background.

Again: where is Mr. LESLIE's exquisite scene from "Don Quixote" hung? In one of the central positions of honour? Nothing of the sort. The best place on the best wall in the best room has been delicately and disinterestedly taken by a member of the Hanging Committee for one of his own pictures. Mr. HERBERT's "Lear and Cordelia" is the work we refer to. Lear is the conventional Old Academy model, with the devout eyes, the yellow complexion, and the patriarchal beard. Cordelia stares at him, with no expression whatever in her face; and the "Physician" stands behind with the air of a beggar waiting for his half-penny. Excluding Mr. HERBERT, and his Hanging coadjutors, will any man with eyes in his head look at this picture and then at Mr. LESLIE's, and deny that the two canvases ought to have changed places? Will any reader of Shakespeare say that Mr. HERBERT has given us the King Lear of the great poet? and will any reader of Cervantes say that Mr. LESLIE has not given us the Sancho of the great humourist? Let us leave this case, and take a few more, placing them all together for the sake of economising space. Mr. ECO's beautiful composition from one of Moore's Melodies is hung in so bad a light that its true effect is fatally damaged. Mr. SOLOMON, whose pictures of "The First Class" and "The Second Class" were among the prominent attractions of last year's exhibition, has a picture this year hung so high that, in common justice to the artist, we must decline even attempting to criticise it. Mr. STANFIELD has one of the most elaborate works he has painted, placed in the worst position we ever remember seeing one of his pictures occupy. Mr. J. PHILLIPS, whose representations of Spanish life and character delighted everybody, from the Queen downwards, last year, has one of his pictures (Number 1375) placed in the Octagon Room this year. In the same "condemned cell" is a small study by Mr. C. A. COLLINS (Number 1334)—the best piece of earnest conscientious painting the artist has produced; welcomed by the Academy with as bad a place as they could find for it. We might quote treble this number of examples of the injustice and incompetency of the Hanging Committee—but we prefer closing the list abruptly with one remarkable fact in connexion with the works not hung at all in the present exhibition. Mr. HOLMAN HUNT—whose "Light of the World" was a general subject of argument and conversation a year ago among all the picture-seers in London—sent in a drawing to the Exhibition this year, and has had that drawing turned out!

Who, then, has got the good places? We have already mentioned that Mr. HERBERT has secured the best position in the best room for himself. He has also taken one of the two first-rate central positions in the Middle Room for an imbecile caricature, which is called "Horace Vernet." Mr. LEE and Mr. ABRAHAM

COOPER (also Hangers) have excellent places for some of the worst pictures they have either of them ever painted; and that is saying a great deal. Wretched portraits of unknown people are for the most part conspicuously hung. Mr. A. JOHNSTONE paints a perfectly conventional picture of a perfectly exhausted subject—Mary Queen of Scots—and gets a much better place than Mr. MILLAIS. Mr. GALE and Mr. EARLES we have already mentioned as occupying first-rate positions. There are two other gentlemen whose pictures hang fraternally side by side, in prominent places and admirable lights, but whose names we never heard of before, and whose works we hope never to see again. One is a Mr. WOODINGTON, who plagiarises from FLAXMAN, and paints (in whitewash) "A Vessel under conduct of an Angel, coming over the Waves with Spirits to Purgatory." The other, a Mr. WINGFIELD, who is not quite so senseless in his choice of subject as Mr. WOODINGTON, but whose picture of "Summer Hill in the Time of Charles the Second," exhibits most of the faults that a painter ought to avoid, and none of the merits that a spectator desires to see. Need we add other instances to these? Surely not. If we have failed to make out our case sufficiently against the Hanging Committee, we can only assure our readers that they may easily complete it for themselves by looking around any one of the exhibition rooms which they may please to enter.

Next week we hope to be able to notice the pictures more in detail.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA.

THE decided and brilliant success of *Il Trovatore* on Thursday, may be said to have broken the ice of the operatic season. For the first time the audience was really moved, and at certain moments a thrill of sympathy shot through the house, and made "the whole world" of stalls and boxes, pit and amphitheatre, "kin." After hearing the opera in Paris, we were quite prepared for its extraordinary reception in London. It has nearly all the elements of success with a public that demands excitement and emotion, and cheerfully foregoes the more subtle satisfactions of contrapuntal skill. In the *Trovatore*, though the story is even more hopelessly unintelligible than *libretti* in general, there is abundance of energy and passion, of the thrilling and the melting quality, and any audience more able and more disposed to feel than to criticise is enthusiastically content to be "carried away" by the tones that vibrate on the universal chord. As a fair and conscientious representative of the ignorant and sensuous musical mob, we beg leave to thank M. VERDI for an evening of unfeigned and unforced enjoyment. We leave to the learned to assign to him his rank in the art, and to prove by all the canons that his reputation is a mistake.

According to our philosophy, life is too short and too full of labour and sorrow to spare us time to be bored, even for the benefit of high art; and as, now-a-days, Art is, after all, a market, and the artist has to live by his art, he must needs adapt himself to the state of the market and to the general demand. Once a century or so there comes a man who creates a demand, but, with very rare exceptions, only a millionaire or a maniac will undertake to persuade the public that amusement and gratification are not the highest aims of art. Was this, because a contemporary (the *Musical World*), whom we always read with pleasure, and sometimes, we trust, with profit, has taken us somewhat strictly to task for a remark we had the evil courage to make on the music of VERDI. Our friendly but austere contemporary, however, has, unintentionally no doubt, misinterpreted us. We have no sort of right to be called "a staunch adherent of HERR WAGNER;" we have never written a word in his praise, and we have so little appreciation of those perpetual recitatives which are supposed to be the destiny of the millennial music, that we can only rejoice that they are reserved for some very future age's applause. Certainly, we respect even the eccentricities of HERR WAGNER, but no amount of novelty in his music will reconcile us to the absence of all melody in his compositions. We like that good old-fashioned notion of music—a tune. What a heretic HERR WAGNER would call us if we assured him that we enjoyed the *Trovatore* without understanding a word of the drama! And this was the case with two-thirds of the audience on Thursday last.

By coupling the name of VERDI with that of WAGNER, our contemporary seems to imply that we admire VERDI because of some supposed political tendency of his music. But we meant nothing of the kind. VERDI has been the delight of all Europe, from Rome to St. Petersburg, and his operas have been played by imperial orchestras, as well as bawled by patriotic insurgents. Nor did we presume for a moment to apologise for his "bad harmony" or his "hoarse and shrill unisons," which we leave to the tender mercies of our contemporary, to whose judgment in such matters we bow with all humility. We wish with all our heart that VERDI were a BEETHOVEN; he would not hate tyranny or love his country less for having all the genius and all the science of that harmonious giant. But taking him as he is, we recognise in his operas, notably in the *Trovatore*, that power of swaying the emotions of a vast audience which is a very tolerable substitute for genius. VERDI is at least the national composer of Italy—but of Italy agitated, tumultuous, impatient of repose and rule. When calmer and brighter days come, we may trust that the music of future Italy will be something more melodious than WAGNER, and more scientific and composed than VERDI.

But we are forgetting the *Trovatore*. We shall not attempt to describe the argument of this opera, for the simple reason that we have never been able to understand who was who, or which was which, in the drama. But there is a drama, terrible enough, with striking situations and effective tableaux. There is an opportunity for Mr. BEVERLEY in the mountain scenery, the gipsy camp, and the fortress; there is picturesque costume and grouping, and organ music with choir in the distance. There is love, passion, vengeance, joy, surprise, terror, desperation, parting, death.

Madame VIARDOT, to whose ever zealous co-operation and generous aid in the production of the opera much of the success we believe is due, was heartily welcomed by the audience when she rose from her couch among her wild comrades, as the gipsy *Azucena*. This admirable artist, this esteemed and respected lady, is a constant example of the true nobleness and dignity of art.

She took the part of *Azucena* at Paris at an extraordinarily short notice, and gave it to quite a new importance, but she has now made it a finished impersonation, worthy to take a place in her gallery. Her "drapery" is a perpetual study and delight to the sculptor, her looks, her gestures to the dramatic enthusiast, her singing to all who can enjoy the perfect use and mastery of all the resources of the most accomplished art.

Mademoiselle JENNY NEX, who, we have heard, knew absolutely nothing of the opera, score or libretto, when she came to England, astonished the audience by her performance of *Leonora*. We confess we had entertained apprehensions of her success in the part, and we had been inclined to regret Madlle. Boon, even at the sacrifice of all but the singing. But never were we more agreeably

surprised: we question if a better *Leonora* could be found than Madlle. NEX; certainly Madame REZZOLINI, with her listless air and worn-out voice, was immeasurably inferior.

Madlle. JENNY NEX disclosed a power and a passion which no one ascribed to her. Her voice, clear, full, and brilliant, revealed a range as well as a quality of the rarest order; and, in the last act especially, her acting recalled for a moment the fire, the tenderness, the abandonment of MALIBRAN. GRAZIANI, as the Count de Luna, completely won the ears and hearts of the public by his delivery of the air in the second act, "Il balen del suo sorriso," admirably fitted to the richest notes in his limited but beautiful voice, whose full and mainly resonance it is a luxury to hear. It is only in falsetto that it becomes uncertain and weak. TAMBERLIK, as *Manrico*, was a vast improvement upon BACARDI, whom we heard at Paris in the part, and who was as dull and heavy in his acting, as he was spungy and stuffy in his singing. In the last act, in the farewell to *Leonora*, TAMBERLIK surpassed himself, and this scene will be talked of like the finale to the third act in the *Huguenots* in the days of GRISI and MARIO. *Il Trovatore* will be an increasing success, and will enable us to wait patiently for the *Etoile du Nord*.

The house was crowded to the ceiling, and among the audience were Madame GRISI and Signor MARIO, looking in the best preservation.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

MANY of our readers will remember Madlle. RACHEL's exquisite performance of *La Tisbe*, in Victor Hugo's drama of *Angelo*. Mr. BUCKSTONE has produced a version by his own hand of this drama, with a slight alteration or two, for the sake of rendering the situations more "proper" for a highly moral British public, such as killing off the tyrant husband, so as to leave a clear stage and no favour for the lovers. In other respects the translation is very faithful, and often felicitously renders the grace, the spirit, and the point of the original. Miss CECILIA's version of *La Tisbe* is a very different one from RACHEL's; and

without instituting comparisons, let us say that the American *tragédienne* makes up for fascination by force, and for coquetry and passion by tragic purpose and intensity. It is a very striking and effective performance, broad and strong rather than delicate and subtle, but always full of intention and intelligence. Miss REYNOLDS, as *Catarina* (poor REBECCA FELIX played this part with her sister), was exquisitely dressed. The play is well put on the stage.

MR. ALFRED MELLON'S CONCERTS.

MR. ALFRED MELLON's second Grand Orchestral Union Concert at St. Martin's Hall, on Thursday last, was even more crowded than the first. We heartily concur with the excellent critic of the *Times*, who says that "the orchestra of fifty performers, which Mr. Alfred Mellon directs so well, is likely to become a topic of conversation in all circles where music is discussed. The praise bestowed upon its recent performance of the Pastoral Symphony of Beethoven was fully justified by that of Mendelssohn in A minor (the 'Scottish'), a composition of great difficulty and of a totally different character. The execution of this noble and imaginative work was worthy of any band that could be named, and made an impression upon the audience which must have been gratifying to all who feel any interest about the prospects of good music in this country. The burst of applause at the conclusion was a startling contrast to the breathless silence that prevailed during the entire progress of thy symphony. The overtures were *Der Freischütz*—which was encoored with acclamations, *La Gazza Ladra*, and *Le Domino Noir*, two delightful specimens of the Italian and French schools of operatic prelude. The orchestral pieces, indeed, could scarcely have been selected more judiciously." The reappearance of Signor BOTTESINI, the renowned double-bass, after three years' absence, was, however, the event of the evening. Signor BOTTESINI, says the critic whom we have quoted, "plays even better than before." When you hear that colossal instrument under those weird fingers, warbling like a flute, like a bird, like a woman's voice, you can scarcely believe that the colossal baritone is not a familiar spirit.

THE LATE FIRE AT MILLWALL.—Mr. J. Scott Russell, in whose dockyard the recent fire took place, has published the following statements with respect to the results of that calamity:—"No ship was burnt on that occasion, except the steam-battery; but that was hopelessly destroyed. Two ships on each side of the battery were injured, but only slightly, so that the injuries of one will probably be remedied in a week, and the other in a fortnight. All the other ships in the building yard escaped without the slightest injury, including the great ship of the Eastern Steam Navigation Company. The whole of the buildings and machinery of the establishment escaped without injury, and continue unintercepted at work."—There seems to be a strong probability that the fire was incendiary; and, indeed, a man is now in custody on that charge. The prisoner, Layton Edward Hopper, was examined on Wednesday, before Mr. Ingham, at the Thames Police-court, when Mr. Campbell, cashier to Mr. Russell, described the appearance of the fire when he first saw it. It was then running along the sides of the vessel, as if some inflammable matter had been spread on the timbers; and the flames were communicated from one prop to another with great rapidity, "seeming to hop, as it were," over the intervening spaces. The prisoner had been in Mr. Russell's employ as a shipwright, but left about three weeks previous to the fire, owing to a strike among the shipwrights. Mr. Dixon, superintendent, corroborated this testimony, and said that about twenty-five minutes past eight he had been over the vessel, and there was then no appearance of fire. There had been a clearance of chips and shavings that very evening. The next witness was John Coolie, an elderly man, and a shipwright in Mr. Russell's yard. He deposed that on going into the yard on the alarm of fire, he saw a man coming from the bows of the battery, who was running hastily, and who escaped over a kiln and an adjoining shed into the street. Being asked by Mr. Ballantine, the prisoner's counsel, if he could take his oath that the prisoner was the man, he replied, with some agitation, "Between myself and my conscience, it tells me he is the man." Upon being further pressed, he said, after a pause, "Between God and man, he is." Mr. Ballantine still insisted upon his pledging his oath; upon which, the witness said, "I pledge my oath on his face and person. On my fair faith and belief, he is the man." Still, Mr. Ballantine demanded a more direct answer; and, after considerable hesitation, Coolie said he had "every reason to believe" he was the man. Mr. Ballantine said he was ready to prove by numerous witnesses the utter impossibility of the prisoner being in Mr. Russell's yard at the time; but he was remanded, and bail was refused.

A DUCKING MILITIA MAN, at Brighton, literally impaled his head and neck, last Sunday morning, on some iron railings in front of a house. He was roughly pulled away by a labourer who came to his assistance, and screamed horribly; but he is going on well.

DR. VERON.—By a recent official paragraph in the *Moniteur*, we find that Dr. Veron, the celebrated *bourgeois de Paris*, is authorised to bear on his breast no less than six foreign orders of the highest distinction.

FROM THE LONDON GAZETTE.

Tuesday, May 8.

BANKRUPTS.—HENRY JOSEPH PLATT, New Bond-street, trunk-maker.—THOMAS PRUDY, Great Yarmouth, wine merchant.—ERASMUS SYMONDS, Great Bell-alley, Moorgate-street, merchant.—JOSEPH WHITELEY BROADHEAD, Green Owers, Yorkshire, woollen manufacturer.—DAVID FOSTER, Goslee, Yorkshire, ironmonger.—JOHN BRADBURY, Sheffield, joiner.—HENRY FREDERICK NEWELL, Bradford, Yorkshire, linen-draper.—THOMAS SPURRIER, Walsall, maltster.—JOHN HORSBROOK, Salford, grocer.—THOMAS SOUTHWARD, Bolton

le-Moors, Lancashire, corn merchant.—THOMAS THOMPSON, Sunderland, bookseller.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.—R. LECKIE, Pollokshaws, Renfrewshire, wright.

Friday, May 11.

BANKRUPTS.—PATRICK FENN, Camden-town, linen-draper.—GEORGE BELL, Holland-street, Brixton, tailor.—JOHN GEORGE CLARK, Liverpool, merchant and shipowner.—JAMES DALTON, Newton Heath, near Manchester, emery grinder.—CHARLES CONDRON, Maclefield, silk manufacturer.—JOHN LOTS, Strand, printer and publisher.—THOMAS GRIST, Salisbury, clothier and woollen draper.—MORGAN EVANS, Aberdare, Glamorganshire, grocer.—DAVID DAVIES, jun., Neath, Glamorganshire, railway contractor.—WILLIAM POWELL, York, linen-draper.—JOHN ARBERT HAGERSTADT, Kingston-upon-Hull, licensed victualler.—ROBERT THOMAS and JAMES LYLES, Manchester, dyers.—CHARLES GREENE, Charington-street, St. Paul's, stationer.—EDWIN STANLEY BROOKES, Loughborough, hosier.—WILLIAM JACKSON, late of Dewsbury, Yorkshire, woollen cloth manufacturer.—JOHN RITCHING, Clayton, Bradford, grocer.—ALEXANDER JOHN HEATH, Gloucester, boot and shoe maker.—JOHN BROOKS, Weston-super-Mare, Somersetshire, wine and spirit merchant.—WILLIAM JEFFERSON and THOMAS DIXON, Jarrow, Durham, alkali manufacturers.—WILLIAM COCKELL, Battersea, licensed victualler.—JOHN ELSDON, Church-row, Limehouse, shipowner.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATION.—DONALD FRASER, jun., Inverness, ironmonger.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

COLE.—May 5, at No. 16, Queen's-terrace, Bayswater, the wife of George Cole, Esq., F.R.C.S., Assistant-Surgeon, Bengal Medical Establishment, a son.

CRACROFT.—May 6, at No. 2, Upton Villas, Ealing, the wife of Major H. Cracroft, a daughter.

PETRE.—May 9, at Colby House, Kensington, the Hon. Mrs. Charles E. Petre, a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

BETHELL.—CHAPLIN.—May 9, at St. James's Church, Westbourne-terrace, Slingsby, second son of Sir Richard Bethell, Her Majesty's Solicitor-General, to Caroline, daughter of William James Chaplin, Esq., M.P., of 2, Hyde-park Gardens.

RICHARDSON.—RADCLIFFE.—May 8, at St. Mark's, Surbiton, Rowley W. C. Richardson, Esq., of the Admiralty, and of Berrylands, Surbiton-hill, son of Captain William Richardson, R.N., to Sarah Emma, elder daughter of Captain Wm. Radcliffe, R.N., of that place.

VERNON.—BOLLEAU.—May 8, at St. George's, Hanover-square, the Hon. William J. Vernon, second son of Lord Vernon, to Miss Agnes Lucy Bolleau, third daughter of Sir John and Lady Catherine Bolleau.

DEATHS.

GAVIN.—April 21, at Balaklava, aged thirty-nine, Dr. Hector Gavin, F.R.C.S. Ed.

HALL.—May 5, at 13, Tavistock-terrace, Upper Holloway, John Edward Hall, Esq., aged eighty-nine, only surviving son of the late John Hall, Esq., historical engraver to his late Majesty King George the Third.

INGLIS.—May 5, at his residence in Bedford-square, the Right Hon. Sir Robert Harry Inglis, Bart., aged sixty-nine.

MERCER.—May 7, at his residence, 25, Kensington-park-gardens, of acute inflammation of the lungs, Francis Mercer, Esq., F.A.S., F.G.S., of the Stock Exchange, and late of Lordship Lodge, Tottenham, formerly of the H.E.I.C.S., aged fifty-nine.

STRACHEY.—May 5, at 13, Upper Montague-street, Rear-Admiral Christopher Strachey, Knight of St. Vladimir of Russia, aged seventy-seven.

VIVIAN.—May 6, at Niton, Isle of Wight, the Hon. Mrs. J. C. W. Vivian, aged thirty-six.

Commercial Affairs.

MONEY MARKET AND CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Friday Evening, May 11, 1855.

THE Funds are still rather depressed. This last settling has wrecked too tolerably large speculators in the Stock Exchange; it is understood that they have gone for a considerable amount, and as they were sturdy Bulls, it has made an impression on the funds. Turkish Scrip seems to be

recovering in public estimation; whispers of a guarantee by the French and English Governments for the payment of the half-yearly interest, and a conversion of the stock into another form, are the causes. There is little doing in the share market, or in the way of mines, &c. A good many purchases in Great Western of Canada Railway shares and debentures, also in East Indian lines—a more particularly Bombay and Baroda—have been made during the week. Foreign shares are all very quiet as regards railways. Considerable interest is attached to Lord Ellenborough's and Mr. Layan's several motions next week, and the result. An appeal to the country, should the Premier resort to it, will flatten the funds considerably; and as this is a very short account, and the next account proportionally longer, there will be margin for three or four per cent. rise or fall.

Mines are greatly neglected; nothing but bona fide dividend-paying mines will do for the public now; they have found out, and are sick of, the innumerable shams hitherto foisted upon them. Peninsula, Pontrebeand, Waller Gold, &c., all upon a false immense success and a dividend. We shall see. Until then, perhaps, the public may be allowed to be a little sceptical.

Consols opened this morning at 83½, 84½; Turkish at 74; and close, four o'clock, Consols at 83½, 84½; Turkish at 74½, 75.

Caledonians, 59½, 60½; Eastern Counties, 11½, 11½; Great Northern, 89½, 90½; ditto, A stock, 74, 74½; ditto, B stock, 125, 125½; Great Western, 64, 64½; Lancaster and Carlisle, 65, 65½; Leeds, 74½, 75½; Brightons, 90, 90½; Birmingham, 93, 93½; South Western, 80, 81; Midlands, 69, 69½; Berwick, 71, 72; York, 47, 48; Oxford, 26, 26½; South Eastern, 50½, 50; Antwerp and Rotterdam, 71, 71½; Eastern of France, 35, 35½; East Indian, 3, 4; Extension, 24, 24½; Bombay and Baroda, 4, 4½; Great Western of Canada, 194, 201; ditto Bonds, payable in 1857, 99, 101; ditto, 1862, 102, 104; ditto, 1876, 104, 106; Lyons, 244, 251; Orleans, 45, 47; Rouen, 39, 41; Northern of France, 34½, 35½; Western of France, 5, 6; 6 pm.; Australian Agricultural, 28, 30; General Screw, 14, 14½; North British Australasian, 1, 1; Scottish Australasia, 11, 11; South-Australian Land, 36, 36½; Australasian Bank, 80, 82; London Chartered Bank of Australia, 20, 21; Crystal Palace, 34, 34½.

CORN MARKET.

Mark Lane, Friday Evening, May 11, 1855.

THE arrivals of English and Foreign Wheat during the week have been moderate, but the weather having become milder and some rain having fallen, there is less activity in the trade. Holders, however, are firm, and prices remain unchanged. The supply of Barley and Oats is short, and prices have been well maintained. Some quantity of Oats left over from recent arrivals met a free sale at a trifle under Monday's rates; to-day the sale is slower, and prices are 6d. under those of last Monday, and we cannot report any alteration in the value of Beans or Peas. The arrivals off the coast are few. Said Wheat has been sold at 40s. and Beheim at 47s. Said Beans at 35s., buyers at 34s.

BRITISH FUNDS FOR THE PAST WEEK.

(CLOSING PRICES.)

	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Frid.
Bank Stock.....	209	209	209	211	.....	209
3 per Cent. Red.	88½	88½	87½	87½	88½	88½
3 per Cent. Con. An.	88½	88½	88½	88½	81½	88½
Consols for Account	88½	88½	88½	88½	88½	88½
3½ per Cent. An. ....	.....	.....	78	.....	.....	.....
New 2½ per Cents. ....	.....	.....	73	.....	.....	.....
Long Ans. 1860. ....	.....	24	34	34	41	34
India Stock.....	.....	.....	231	230	230	230½
Ditto Bonds, £1000 .....	.....	.....	17	.....	14	.....
Ditto, under £1000	12	.....	.....	17	14	15
Ex. Bills, £1000.	8	5	5	.....	8	8
Ditto, £500.	7	10	5	8	8	11
Ditto, Small .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

FOREIGN FUNDS.

LAST OFFICIAL QUOTATION DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY EVENING.)

Brazilian Bonds	95	Russian Bonds, 5 per Cent., 1852.	99
Buenos Ayres 6 per Cents. ....	.....	Russian 4½ per Cents. ....	.....
Chilian 5 per Cents. ....	.....	Spanish 3 p. Ct. New Def. 184	.....
Danish 5 per Cents. ....	.....	Spanish Committee Cert.	.....
Ecuador 5 per Cents. ....	.....	of Coup. not fun.	4
Mexican 3 per Cents. ....	.....	Venezuela 3½ per Cents.	27½
Mexican 3 per Ct. for Acc. May 16. ....	.....	Belgian 4½ per Cents. ....	.....
Portuguese 4 per Cents. ....	.....	Dutch 3½ per Cents.	93
Portuguese 3 p. Cents. ....	.....	Dutch 4 per Cent. Certif	.....

ROYAL OLYMPIC THEATRE.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. ALFRED WIGAN.
Monday, May 14, and during the week, never acted, a New and Original Comedy, in three Acts, called

STILL WATERS RUN DEEP.

Principal characters by Messrs. A. Wigan, Emery, G. Vining, Danvers, Miss Maskell, and Mrs. McIvor.

To conclude with the fairy Extravaganza called
THE YELLOW DWARF AND THE KING OF THE GOLD MINES.

Characters by Mr. F. Robson, Miss Julia St. George, Miss E. Ormonde, Miss Bromley, and Mrs. Fitzalan.

THE LATE SIR HENRY R. BISHOP.

The Committee of the Friends of the late Sir Henry Bishop, who recently undertook to receive Subscriptions for the purpose of arranging his pecuniary emolument, and in behalf of his Two Youngest Children, beg to announce that a communication has been received by them from a Member of the Family, to the effect that "he is ready, and desirous of taking charge of the children"—"with the assistance of Relatives, at once willing and able to provide for their support." The Committee, therefore, feel that it would be inexpedient to continue their applications for any further assistance from the Public; they beg to announce that no more subscriptions will be required, as the sums actually received, in addition to other contributions already made, or in course of collection, by Societies and Friends in London and the Provinces, will enable the Committee to meet all existing necessities. They beg also to announce that the Concert advertised for Friday, May 15, at the Royal Italian Opera, will not take place.

Previously to the lamented decease of Sir Henry Bishop, the Committee had the satisfaction of arranging with the Creditors, and the balance of money remaining in their hands, after the payment of advertisements, printing, and other incidental expenses, will be immediately paid over to the Guardian of the two children appointed by Sir Henry Bishop's Will.

COMMITTEE.

Sir George Smart, 91, Great Portland-street;
Dr. Henry Daniel, 36, Chancery-street;
Mr. Robert Addison, 210, Regent-street;
Mr. Mitchell, Old Bond-street.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION.—An Exhibition of the finest English, French, and Italian Photographs is now open at the Photographic Institution, 168, New Bond-street. Open from 10 to 5. Admission, with catalogue, 1s.

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

THE FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL EXHIBITION IS NOW OPEN at their Gallery, 5, PALL MALL EAST (close to Trafalgar-square).
Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d.
JOSEPH J. JENKINS, Secretary.

GALLERY OF GERMAN ARTISTS. The THIRD ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE WORKS OF MODERN GERMAN ARTISTS in London is NOW OPEN, daily, from Ten till Six. Admission, 1s. Catalogue, 6d. Gallery, 168, New Bond-street.

MARTIN'S SUBLIME PICTURES.

Valued at 8000 Guineas.—Messrs. LEGGATT, HAYWARD, and LEGGATT, 79, Cornhill, beg to announce, that owing to the extraordinary excitement occasioned by the Exhibition of MARTIN'S Three Pictures, "THE LAST JUDGMENT," "THE PLAINS OF HEAVEN," and the "GREAT DAY OF HIS WRATH," they will remain ON VIEW at the HALL OF COMMERCE, 52, Threadneedle-street, for a few days longer. Thousands of persons have inspected them since they have been on view in the City—Hall of Commerce.

BEAUTIFUL HAIR, WHISKERS, AND

MOUSTACHIOS, are invariably produced in 2 or 3 weeks, by COUPELLE'S CELEBRATED CRINUTRIAR, the almost marvellous powers of which in the production and restoration of hair, strengthening weak hair, checking greyness, rendering the hair luxuriant, curly, and glossy, must be seen to be believed. Dr. Ure says: "It is the only preparation he can recommend for the nursery, as forming the basis of a good head of hair." 2s. per package, at 68, Cornhill; 14, Edgeware-road; 154, Sloane-street; Wynnall, 78, High-street, Birmingham; Raines and Co., Leith Walk, Edinburgh; and Micklegate, York; Whitaker, Sheffield; Haigh, 116, Brigsteet, Leeds; Jones, 5, Paradise-street, Liverpool; Ferris and Co., Bristol; Westmacott, Manchester; Hensleigh, Plymouth; Evans and Co., Exeter; Campbell, Glasgow; and through all Chemists; or sent post free for 24 penny stamps, by Rosalie Coupele, 69, Castle-street, Newman-street, Oxford-street, London.

TRIESEMAR.—PROTECTED BY ROYAL

LETTERS PATENT OF ENGLAND, and secured by the SEALS of the ECOLE DE PHARMACIE DE PARIS, and the IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, VIENNA. TRIESEMAR, No. 1, is a Remedy for Relaxation, Spasmodism, and Exaggeration of the System.

TRIESEMAR, No. 2, effectually, in the short space of Three Days, completely and entirely eradicates all traces of those disorders which Capsules have so long been thought an antidote for, to the ruin of the health of a vast portion of the population.

TRIESEMAR, No. 3, is the Great Continental Remedy for that class of disorders which, unfortunately, the English physician treats with Mercury, to the inevitable destruction of the Patient's constitution, and which all the Sarsaparilla in the world cannot remove.

TRIESEMAR, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, are alike devoid of taste or smell, and of all nauseating qualities. They may lie on the toilet-table without their use being suspected.

Sold in tin cases, at 11s. each; free by post, 2s. extra, divided into separate doses, as administered by Welpau, Laitenard, Roux, &c., &c. To be had wholesale and retail, in London, of Robert Johnson, 68, Cornhill; Hanway and Co., 68, Oxford-street; Sanger, 150, Oxford-street; R. H. Ingham, Druggist, Market-street, Manchester; Priestley, Chemist, Lord-street, Liverpool; Wynnall, Bookseller, High-street, Birmingham; and Powell, Bookseller, 15, Westmoreland-street, Dublin.

GENUINE COCOA.—Cocoa has been designated by Physicians of eminence as one of the richest productions of the vegetable kingdom, and, when properly prepared, is justly celebrated for its peculiarly invaluable nutritive properties. So keen, however, has been the avidity to render this article a lucrative manufacture, and so strenuous the competitive efforts thereby excited, that the most flagrant adulterations have been resorted to, with the sole aim of lowness of price. The evils with which so baneful a system is fraught are strikingly manifest to the medical profession, who, highly esteeming Cocoa (in its PURE STATE) as an article of diet, frequently prescribe and recommend it to invalids as a remedial agent in promoting health. The results are, however, too often rendered nugatory by the impurity of the article supplied.

The magnitude of our legitimate business as Tea Dealers necessarily precludes our devoting a strict and essential supervision to the manufacture of Cocoa; we have therefore completed arrangements with the highly respectable firm of Messrs. HENRY THORNE and CO., Leeds, whose many years' successful experience in the preparation of this article, and the celebrity they have thereby acquired, together with their uncompromising determination to adhere to the principle they originally adopted, viz., to manufacture only from the choicest Nuts, and to rigidly eschew adulteration in any shape whatever, warrant us in recommending their "GENUINE TRINIDAD COCOA" to our numerous Friends, to the Medical Profession, and to the Public. Price—TENPENCE per POUND.

SIDNEY, WHILLS, and CO., Family Tea-men.

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SOLE AGENTS FOR LONDON.

FITCH & SON'S**CELEBRATED BREAKFAST BACON, AND FIRST-CLASS PROVISIONS.**

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This celebrated Bacon has now been fifteen years before the public, and still retains its deserved pre-eminence. It is sold by the side, half-side, and separate pieces.

The half-side of 30lbs. 9d. per lb.

The Middle-piece, 12lbs. 9d. "

THE FINEST DESCRIPTIONS OF CHEESE, Stilton, Cheshire, Parmesan, Somerset, North Wiltshire, and others.

HAMS—namely, the far-famed and still unrivalled Yorkshire, together with Somerset, Westphalia, and Brunswick. **OX TONGUES CURED UPON THE PREMISES,** both pickled and smoked.

Wiltshire Chaps and Chines, Anglo-German Sausages.

FITCH & SON'S HOUSEHOLD PROVISIONS.

Fine rich Cheshire Cheese, by single Cheese...	Per lb.	0 8
Good Sound ditto, ditto	.....	0 7
Ditto Serviceable ditto, ditto	.....	0 7
Fine New Salt Butter by Half Pkins	.....	1 0
Very good ditto, ditto	.....	1 1
Fine Small Hams	.....	0 8

A remittance is requested from correspondents unknown to the firm. Deliveries free to all the London Railway Termini, daily, and the suburbs twice a week. A priced List of the parts of a side of their celebrated Bacon free upon application.

FITCH AND SON,

Provision Merchants and Importers,
No. 66, BISHOPSGATE WITHIN, LONDON.
Established 1784.

ADNAM'S Improved Patent Groats and Barley.**THE ONLY EXISTING PATENT.**

And Strongly recommended by the Medical Profession.

TO INVALIDS, MOTHERS, AND FAMILIES.

The important object so desirable to be obtained has at length been secured to the Public by J. and J. C. ADNAM, PATENTERS, who, after much time and attention, have succeeded by their Improved Process in producing preparations of the purest and finest quality ever manufactured from the Oat and Barley.

To enumerate the many advantages derived by the Public from the use of the Improved Patent Groats is not the intention of the Patentees; suffice it to say that, by the process of manufacture, the acidity and unpleasant flavour so generally complained of in other preparations is totally obviated, and a very superior Groats speedily made therefrom. It is particularly recommended to those of consumptive constitutions, Ladies, and Children; and the healthy and strong will find it an excellent Luncheon or Supper.

The Barley being prepared by a similar process is as pure as can be manufactured, and will be found to produce a light and nourishing Food for Infants and the Aged; and to contain all the necessary properties for making a delicious pudding. It has also the distinguished character for making very superior Barley Water, and will be found a most excellent ingredient for thickening Soups, &c.

CAUTION.—To prevent errors, the Public are requested to observe that each Package bears the Signature of the PATENTERS, J. and J. C. ADNAM.

To be obtained Wholesale at the Manufactory, Maiden-lane, Queen-street, London; and Retail in Packets and Canisters at 6d. and 1s. each, and in Canisters for Families at 2s., 5s., and 10s. each, of all respectable Grocers, Druggists, &c., in Town and Country.

A CLEAR COMPLEXION.**GODFREY'S EXTRACT OF ELDER**

FLOWERS is strongly recommended for softening, improving, beautifying, and preserving the skin, and giving it a blooming and charming appearance, being at once a fragrant perfume and delightful cosmetic. It will completely remove tan, sunburn, redness, &c., and by its balsamic and healing qualities render the skin soft, pliable, and free from dryness, scurf, &c., clear it from every humour, pimple, or eruption, and, by continuing its use only a short time, the skin will become and continue soft and smooth, and the complexion perfectly clear and beautiful. In the process of shaving it is invaluable, as it annihilates every pimple, and all roughness, and will afford great comfort if applied to the face during the prevalence of cold easterly winds.

Sold in Bottles, price 2s. 6d., with Directions for using it by all Medicine Vendors and Perfumers.

FENDERS, STOVES, and FIRE-IRON.

Buyers of the above are requested, before finally deciding, to visit WILLIAM S. BURTON'S SHOW-ROOM, 39, Oxford-street (corner of Newman-street), No. 1, & 2, & 3, Newman-street, and 4 & 5, Perry's-place. They are the largest in the world, and contain such an assortment of FENDERS, STOVES, RANGES, FIRE-IRON, and GENERAL IRONMONGERY, as cannot be approached elsewhere, either for variety, novelty, beauty of design, or exquisiteness of workmanship. Bright Stoves, with ornate and two sets of bars, 27. 14s. to 41. 10s.; ditto 127. 12s.; Bronzed Fenders complete, with standards, from 7s. to 31. Steel Fenders from 27. 15s. to 61.; ditto with ornate ornaments, from 27. 15s. to 71. 7s.; Fire-iron from 1s. 9d. the set to 41. 4s. Sylvester and all other Burn Stoves, with radiating hearth plates. All which he is enabled to sell at these very reduced charges—

Firstly—From the frequency and extent of his purchases;

and Secondly—From those purchases being made exclusively for cash.

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THE BEST SHOW OF IRON BED-STEADS IN THE KINGDOM IS WILLIAM S. BURTON'S.

He has TWO VERY LARGE ROOMS, which are devoted to the EXCLUSIVE SHOW of Iron and Brass Bedsteads and Children's Cots, with appropriate Bedding and Mattresses. Common Iron Bedsteads, from 16s.; Portable Folding Bedsteads, from 12s. 6d.; Patent Iron Bedsteads, fitted with dovetail joints and patent making, from 17s. 6d.; and Cots, from 8s., each. Handsome ornamental Iron and Brass Bedsteads, in great variety, from 27. 13s. 6d. to 151. 13s.

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An assortment of Tea Trays and Trays wholly unprecedented, whether as to extent, variety, or novelty.

New Oval Papier Maché Trays, per set of three ... from 20s. 6d. to 10 guineas.
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Convex shape ditto ... from 7s. 6d.
Round and Gothic waiters, cake and bread tins, equally low.

WILLIAM S. BURTON has SIXTEEN LARGE SHOW-ROOMS devoted to the show of GENERAL FURNISHING IRONMONGERY (including cutlery, nickel silver, plate and japan wares, iron and brass bedsteads, and bedding), so arranged and classified that purchasers may easily and once make their selections.

Catalogues, with engravings, sent (per post) free. No money returned for every article not approved.

39, OXFORD-STREET (corner of Newman-street); 1, 2, and 3, NEWMAN-STREET; and 4 and 5, PERRY'S-PLACE.

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THE 16s. Trousers reduced to 14s.—Trousers

and Waistcoat, 22s.—Coat, Waistcoat, and Trousers, 47s., made to order from Scotch Tweeds, all wool, and thoroughly shrunken.

The TWO GUINEA DRESS or FROCK COAT, the Guinea Dress Trousers, and the Half-Guinea Waistcoat, made to order by B. BENJAMIN, Merchant Tailor, 7, Regent-street. For quality, style, and workmanship, cannot be equalled by any house in the kingdom.

N.B.—A perfect fit guaranteed.

RUPTURES.—BY ROYAL LETTERS PATENT.**WHITE'S MOC-MAIN LEVER TRUSS**

is allowed by upwards of 200 Medical Gentlemen to be the most effective invention in the curative treatment of Hernia. The use of a steel spring (so often hurtful in its effects) is here avoided, a soft Bandage being worn round the body, while the requisite resisting power is supplied by the Moc-Main Pad and Patent Lever, fitting with so much ease and closeness that it cannot be detected, and may be worn during sleep. A descriptive circular may be had, and the Truss (which cannot fail to fit) forwarded by post, on the circumference of the body, two inches below the hips, being sent to the Manufacturer, Mr. JOHN WHITE, 28, Piccadilly, London.

ELASTIC STOCKINGS, KNEE CAPS, &c., for VARI-COSE VEINS, and all cases of WEAKNESS and SWELLING OF THE LEGS, SPRAINS, &c. They are porous, light in texture, and inexpensive, and are drawn on like an ordinary stocking. Price from 7s. 6d. to 16s. Postage, 6d.

AMERICAN SARSAPARILLA.

SARSAPARILLA. This is of all known remedies, the most pure, safe, active, and efficacious in the purification of the blood of all morbid matter, of bile, urea, acids, scrofulous substances, humours of all kinds, which produce eruptions, salt rheum, erysipelas, scald head, sore eyes, ear, sore throat and ulcers, and sores on any part of the body. It is unsurpassed in its action upon the liver, the lungs, and the stomach, removing any cause of disease from those organs, and expelling all humours from the system. By cleansing the blood, it for ever prevents pimples, sores, pimples and every variety of sores on the face and breast. It is a great tonic, and imparts strength and vigour to the debilitated and weak, gives rest and refreshing sleep to the nervous and restless invalid. It is a great female medicine, and will cure more complaints peculiar to the sex than any other remedy in the world. Warehouse, 373, Strand, adjoining Exeter-Hall: POMEROY, ANDREWS and CO. Sole Proprietors. Half-pints, 2s. 6d.; pints, 4s.; small quarts, 4s. 6d.; quarts, 7s. 6d.; mammoth, 11s.

SOVEREIGN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, 49, St. James's-street, London.

Established 1845.

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B. Bond Cabbell, Esq.
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This Office, the new income of which was doubled during the last year, presents the security of a large paid-up Capital: Moderate Premiums for home and foreign risks; no Stamp Duty is charged, and all Policies are declared indisputable.

The last Bonus added four-fifths of the Premium paid to some of the participating policies.

Provision can be made for the payment of a certain sum on attaining any given age (as 30, 55, or 60), or at death if it occur previously.

By a small annual payment 100l. may be secured to a child on attaining the age of 14, 18, or 21.

Prospectuses and other information will be furnished on application to

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ST. GEORGE ASSURANCE COMPANY, 118, Pall-mall, London.

Capital, 100,000l., in Shares of 5l. each. Deposit, 1l. per Share.

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Annuities and Endowments for families, children, and others on the most favourable terms.

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Defective Titles, Reversions, &c., assured and guaranteed.

GENERAL INDEMNITY ASSURANCE COMPANY, Cannon-street West.—Capital, 500,000l., in Shares of 5l. each; call, 10s. per Share.

Every description of insurance business transacted at this office. Policies absolutely indisputable. Guarantees afforded against losses arising from robberies, forgeries, frauds, debts, insolvency, and non-payment of rent. Fire and life insurance effected on improved and safe principles.—Plate-glass insured.

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The Court of Directors grant LETTERS OF CREDIT and BILLS upon the Company's Bank at ADELAIDE at PAR.

Approved drafts negotiated and sent for collection.

Business with the Australian colonies generally conducted through the Bank's Agents.

Apply at the Company's Offices, 54, Old Broad-street, London.

WILLIAM PURDY, Manager.

London, May, 1855.

SEVEN PER CENT. BONUS.—The CONSERVATIVE LAND SOCIETY.—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that WARRANTS for the PAYMENT of the GUARANTEED INTEREST on completed Shares, and on Subscriptions of Shares in progress, of a year in advance and upwards, at the rate of five per cent. per annum, will be ISSUED on and after the 29th of April, for the half-year ending March 25, and will be forwarded to the respective members in due course.

The holders of completed shares will also be entitled to receive an additional two per cent., in order to make every payment into the Society, by shareholders prior to last Michaelmas realise seven per cent., being the bonus declared by the Executive Committee of the Conservative Land Society for the second financial year, ending Sept. 29, 1854.

By order of the Board.

CHARLES LEWIS GRUNEISEN, Secretary.

FURNISH YOUR HOUSE WITH THE BEST ARTICLES

AT DEANE'S Ironmongery and Furnishing Warehouses. Established A.D. 1700. A Priced Furnishing List, free by post.

DEANE, DRAY, and CO. (Opening to the Monument), London-bridge.

BENNETT'S MODEL WATCH

In gold cases from 10 guineas. In silver cases from 5 guineas.

Every watch is skillfully examined, timed, and its performance guaranteed.

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MR. HOWARD, SURGEON-DENTIST, 12, FLEET STREET, has introduced an ENTIRELY NEW DESCRIPTION OF ARTIFICIAL TEETH, fixed without springs, wires, or ligatures. They so perfectly resemble the natural teeth as not to be distinguished from the originals by the closest observer; they will never change colour or decay, and will be found superior to any teeth before used. This method does not require the extraction of roots, or any painful operation, and will support and preserve teeth that are loose, and is guaranteed to restore articulation and mastication. Decayed teeth rendered sound and useful in mastication.

22, FLEET-STREET.—At home from Ten till Five.

LAW LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, Fleet-street, London, May 10, 1855.

Notice is hereby given that a SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Proprietors of this Society will be held at the office, Fleet-street, London, on FRIDAY, the 8th day of June next, at 12 o'clock at noon precisely, for the purpose of declaring a division of the surplus of the Assurance Fund of the Society in respect of the seven years ending on 31st of December last. And notice is hereby further given that a Second Special General Meeting will be held at the like hour and place, on the following Friday, the 13th day of June, for the purpose of confirming the resolution which shall have been agreed to at such first meeting, in pursuance of the provisions contained in the Deed of Settlement. And notice is hereby further given, that any person who shall have been assured by the Society for two whole years may, on the production of his policy and of the last receipt for the premium thereon, be present at such meeting. At each of the said meetings the chair will be taken at 12 o'clock precisely.

By Order of the Directors,

WILLIAM SAMUEL DOWNES, Actuary.

IMPERIAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, 1, Old Broad-street, London. Instituted 1820.

WILLIAM R. ROBINSON, Esq., Chairman.

HENRY DAVIDSON, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.

The Scale of Premiums adopted by this Office will be found of a very moderate character, but at the same time quite adequate to the risk incurred.

Four-fifths, or 80 per cent. of the Profits, are assigned to Policies every fifth year, and may be applied to increase the sum insured, to an immediate payment in cash, or to the reduction and ultimate extinction of future Premiums.

One-third of the Premium on Insurances of 500l. and upwards, for the whole term of life, may remain as a debt upon the Policy, to be paid off at convenience; or the Directors will lend sums of 50l. and upwards, on the security of Policies effected with this Company for the whole term of life, when they have acquired an adequate value.

SECURITY.—Those who effect Insurances with this Company are protected by its Subscribed Capital of 750,000l., of which nearly 140,000l. is invested, from the risk incurred by members of Mutual Societies.

The satisfactory financial condition of the Company, exclusive of the Subscribed and Invested Capital, will be seen by the following statement:—

At the close of the last Financial Year the sums Assured, including Bonus added, amounted to £2,500,000

The Premium Fund to more than 800,000

And the Annual Income from the same source, to 100,000

Insurances, without participation in Profits, may be effected at reduced rates.

SAMUEL INGALL, Actuary.

EAGLE INSURANCE COMPANY, 3, Crescent, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, London.

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JOSHUA LOCKWOOD, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.

Charles Bischoff, Esq.
Thomas Boddington, Esq.
Nathaniel Gould, Esq.
Robert Alexander Gray, Esq.
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Richard Harman Lloyd, Esq.
W. Anderson Peacock, Esq.
Ralph Chas. Price, Esq.
Thos. G. Sandbrook, Esq.
William Wybrow, Esq.

ACTUARY AND SECRETARY.

CHARLES JELICOE, Esq.

The business of the Company comprises Assurances on Lives and Survivorships, the Purchase of Life Interests, the sale and purchase of contingent and deferred Annuities, Loans of Money on Mortgage, &c.

This Company was established in 1807, is empowered by the Act of Parliament 53 George III., and regulated by Deed enrolled in the High Court of Chancery.

The Company was originally a strictly Proprietary one. The Assured now participate quinquennially in four-fifths of the amount to be divided.

To the present time (1854) the Assured have received from the Company in satisfaction of their claims, upwards of 1,450,000l.

The amount at present assured is 3,000,000l. nearly, and the income of the Company exceeds 130,000l. per annum.

At the last Division of Surplus, about 120,000l. was added to the sums assured under Policies for the whole term of Life.

The lives assured are permitted, in time of peace, without extra charge, to reside in any country (Australia and California excepted) north of 33 degrees north latitude, or south of 33 degrees south latitude, or to pass by sea (not being seafaring persons by profession) between any places lying in the same hemisphere, and not within those limits.

Assurances effected by persons on their own lives are not rendered void in the event of death occurring by suicide, duelling, or the hands of justice, unless such death take place within one year from the date of the Policy.

All Policy Stamps and Medical Fees are now paid by the Company.

The Annual Reports of the Company's state and progress, Prospectuses and Forms, may be had, or will be sent, post free on application at the Office, or to any of the Company's Agents.

BANK OF DEPOSIT,

No. 3, Pall Mall East, London.

Established A.D. 1844.

PARTIES desirous of INVESTING MONEY

are requested to examine the Plan of this Institution, by which a high rate of Interest may be obtained with perfect Security.

The Interest is payable in JANUARY and JULY, at the Head Office in London; and may also be received at the various Branches, or through Country Bankers, without delay or expense.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.

Prospectuses and Forms for opening Accounts sent free on application.

NEW and CHOICE WORKS in CIRCULATION at MUDIE'S SELECT LIBRARY.—

Scattered by Sidney G. Osborne, 700 copies—Grace Lee, by Julia Kavanagh, 400 copies—Sisters of Charity, by Mrs. Jameson—Westward Ho! by Charles Kingsley, 800 copies—The Unity of Worlds, by Baden Powell—Velasquez and his Works—Constance Herbert, by G. E. Jowbury—Heart-case; or, the Brother's Wife, 900 copies—My Brother's Keeper—Memoirs of Lady Blessington—Gilchrist's Life of Ety—Poems by Owen Meredith—North and South, by Mrs. Gaskell—The Heiress of Haverhill—Learning and Working, by F. D. Maurice—Giustiniani's Court of Henry the Eighth—Thorney Hall, by Holme Lee—Mountains and Moleshills—The Englishwoman in Russia, 700 copies—A Diary by the Earl of Carlisle—Mrs. Clarinda Singlehart—Musgrave's Rambles through Normandy—Memoirs of Amelia Opie—The Quiet Heart—Nature and Human Nature—Oliphaunt—Shores of the Black Sea, 700 copies—Autobiography of William Jay—Grey's Polynesian Mythology—Willy Reilly, by W. Carleton—Waagen's Art Treasures in Great Britain—Lights and Shadows of English Life—The Restoration of Belief—Mrs. Jameson's Compendious Book—Wrightson's History of Modern Italy—Memoirs of R. L. Shedd—Fishbourne's Impressions of China.

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Just published, fcap. 8vo, price 2s. 6d., illustrated with Wood Engravings.

THE EAR in HEALTH and DISEASE, with Practical Remarks on the Prevention and Treatment of Deafness. By WILLIAM HARVEY, F.R.C.S., Surgeon to the Royal Dispensary for Diseases of the Ear.

London: HENRY REESBROW, Strand.

MR. THOMPSON ON STRICTURE OF THE URETHRA.

Recently published, with Plates, cloth 8vo, 10s.

STRICTURE OF THE URETHRA; its Pathology and Treatment. By HENRY THOMPSON, F.R.C.S., M.B., Surgeon to the Marylebone Infirmary. The Treatise to which was awarded the Jacksonian Prize, by the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of London, in 1853.

London: JOHN CHURCHILL, New Burlington-street.

Just published, price 2s., post free, 2s. 6d.

AN ESSAY ON SPERMATORRHEA; its Nature and Treatment, with an Exposition of the Frauds that are practised by persons who advertise the speedy, safe, and effectual cure of Nervous Derangement. By a MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, London.

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